


# The Magic School Bus

## LOST IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM



By Joanna Cole

Illustrated by  
Bruce Degen

**E**veryone in Ms. Frizzle's class is excited about the class trip to the planetarium. Unfortunately, it's closed when they get there. But, on the way back to school, the most amazing thing happens! The Magic School Bus tilts back and the kids hear the roar of rockets. "Oh, dear," says Ms. Frizzle. "We seem to be blasting off!" The bus zooms through the atmosphere. It has turned into a spaceship! Ms. Frizzle and her class are on their way to the Moon and beyond!

Join Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen as they take you on the most outrageous exploration of the solar system ever. It's one small step on the gas pedal for the Friz, one giant leap of the imagination for the rest of us!



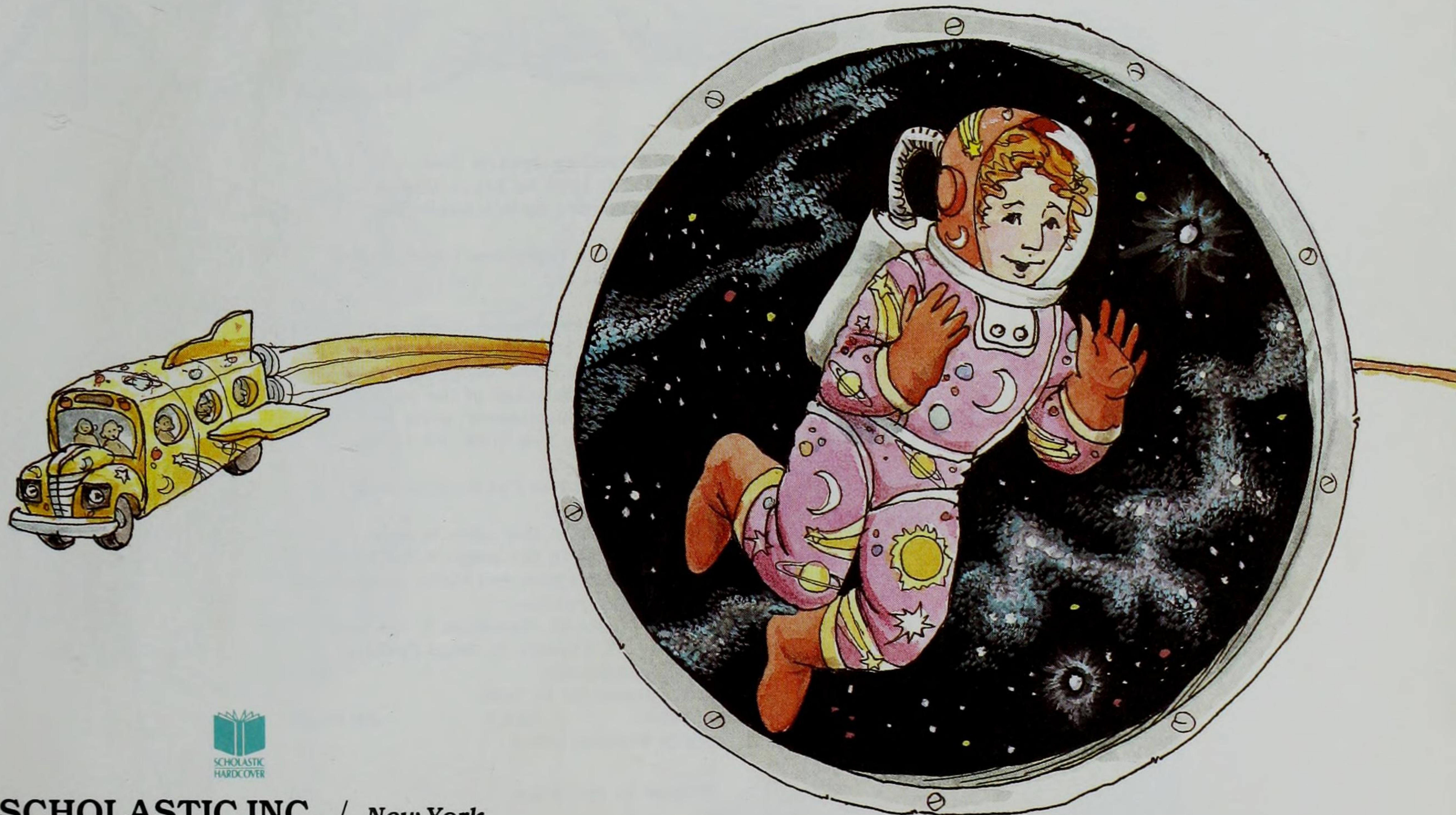




# *The Magic School Bus* *Lost in the Solar System*

By Joanna Cole

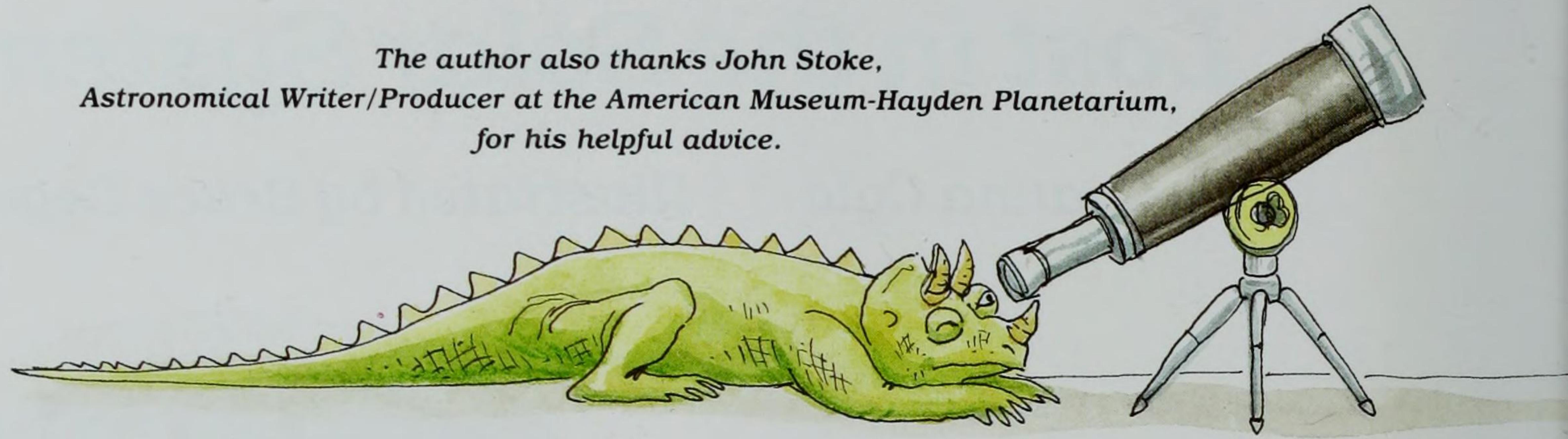
Illustrated by Bruce Degen



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Summary: On a special field trip in the magic school bus,  
Ms. Frizzle's class goes into outer space and visits each planet  
in the solar system.

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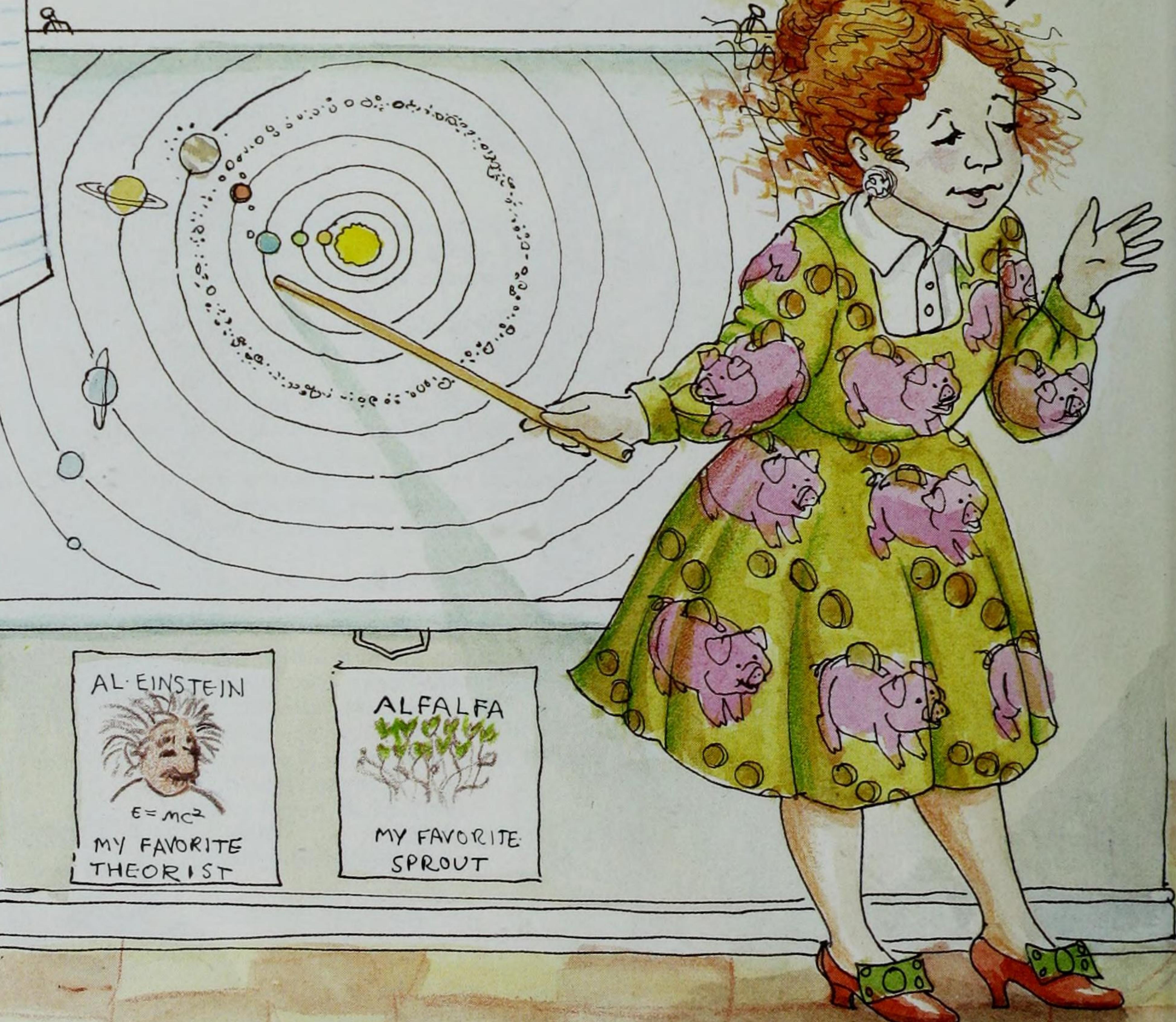
To Virginia and Bob McBride—J.C.

For Chris, queen of the  
Biscadorian Mother ship—B.D.

## WHAT IS THE SOLAR SYSTEM?

by John

The solar system is the Sun and all the bodies that orbit around it — the nine planets, their moons, the asteroids (chunks of rock) and comets (balls of ice and dust).



It was trip day again in Ms. Frizzle's class. Everyone was excited. We were going to the planetarium to see a sky show about the solar system.

CLASS, AN ORBIT IS THE PATH OF A PLANET OR OTHER OBJECT AROUND THE SUN.

I KNEW THAT.  
I GET ALL A'S  
IN SCHOOL.

I HAVE FIVE  
COMPUTERS.


MY CLASS WENT TO  
THE PLANETARIUM  
LAST YEAR.

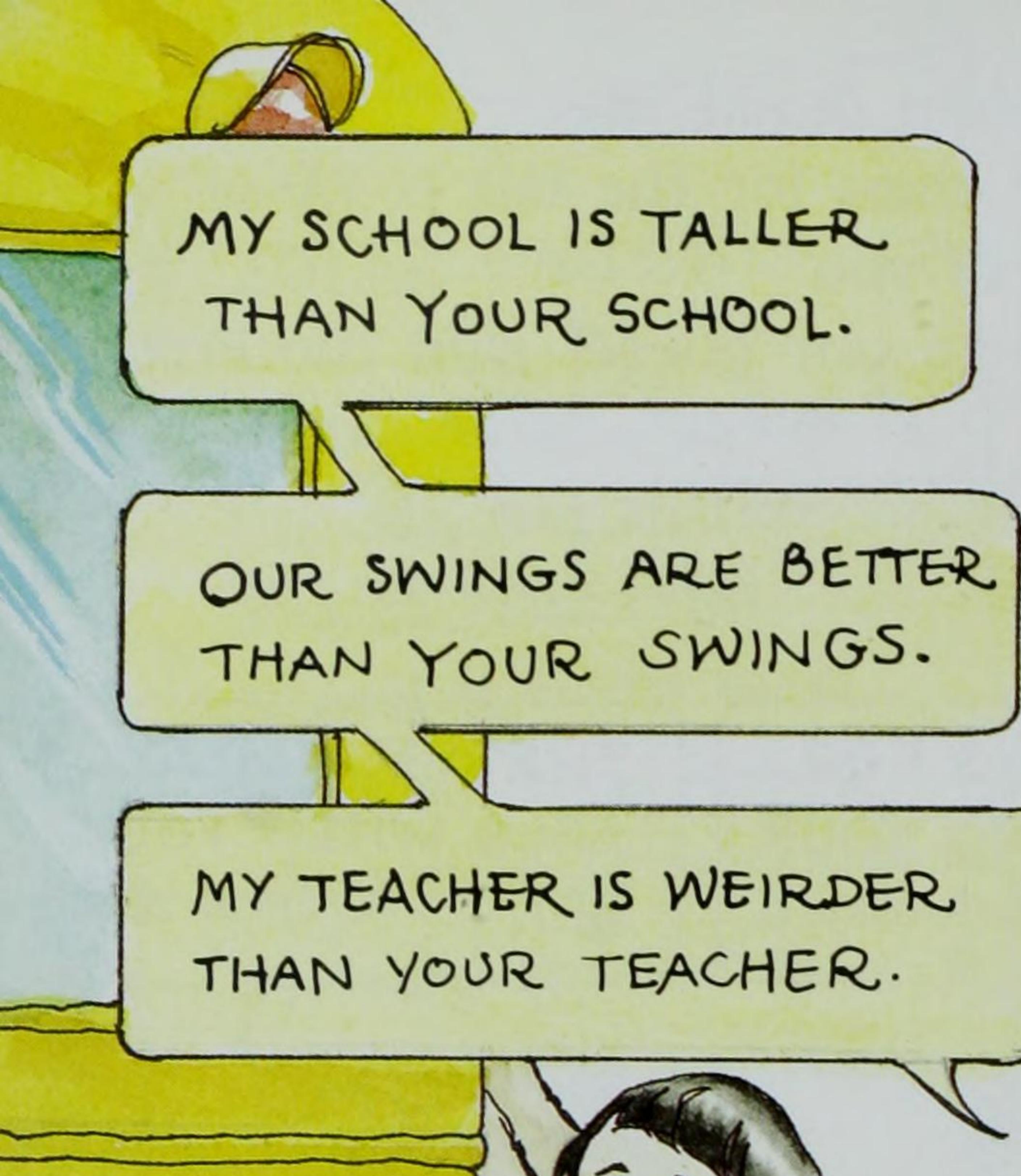
WHAT A  
SHOW-OFF.

THANKS FOR  
INVITING YOUR  
COUSIN, ARNOLD.

SHE'S ACTUALLY  
NICE WHEN YOU  
GET TO KNOW HER.

Arnold's cousin Janet was visiting our class for the day. "I know all of you will be nice to our guest," said the Friz.





MY SCHOOL IS TALLER  
THAN YOUR SCHOOL.

OUR SWINGS ARE BETTER  
THAN YOUR SWINGS.

MY TEACHER IS WEIRDER  
THAN YOUR TEACHER.

We tried to be nice to Janet.  
We really did.

As we got on the school bus,  
we told her that Ms. Frizzle  
is the weirdest teacher in school.  
But Janet wasn't interested.  
She wanted to tell us about herself.



WHO WANTS A TALL  
SCHOOL?

As usual, it took a while to get the old bus started.

But finally we were on our way.

As we were driving, Ms. Frizzle told us all about how the Earth spins like a top as it moves in its orbit.

It was just a short drive to the planetarium, but Ms. Frizzle talked fast.

THIS BUS IS  
A WRECK.

AT LEAST IT  
STARTED THIS  
TIME.

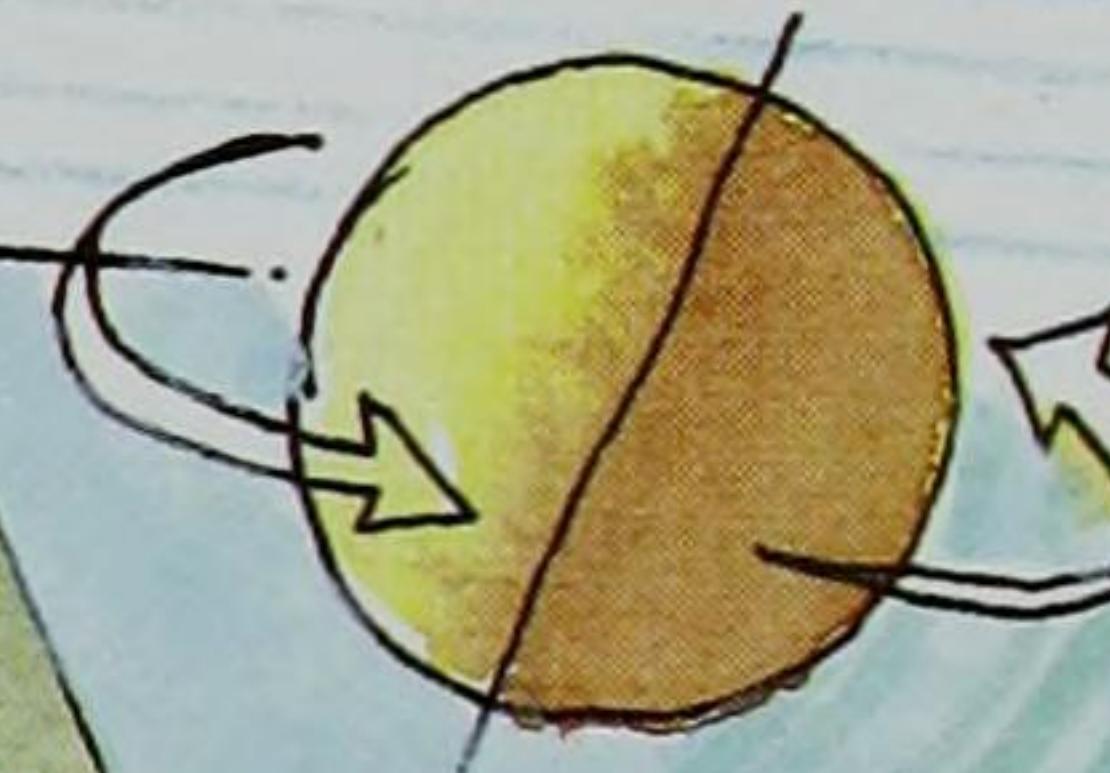
WE HAVE NEW  
SCHOOL BUSES  
AT OUR SCHOOL.

## WHAT MAKES NIGHT AND DAY?

by Phoebe

The spinning of the Earth makes night and day.

When one side of the Earth faces the Sun, it is daytime on that side. When that side turns away from the Sun, it is night.



WHEN THE EARTH SPINS  
WE SAY IT ROTATES.  
THE EARTH MAKES ONE  
COMPLETE ROTATION—  
TURN—EVERY 24 HOURS.

When we got to the planetarium,  
it was closed for repairs.  
"Class, this means we'll  
have to return to school,"  
said the Friz.

We were so disappointed!

BACK TO SCHOOL?

I'M SO DEPRESSED!

MY PLANETARIUM  
IS ALWAYS OPEN.

CLOSED FOR REPAIRS

On the way back,  
as we were waiting at a red light,  
something amazing happened.  
The bus started tilting back,  
and we heard the roar of rockets.  
"Oh, dear," said Ms. Frizzle.  
"We seem to be blasting off!"

HERE WE  
GO AGAIN.

NOT ANOTHER  
CRAZY TRIP!

CHILDREN, WE ARE GOING  
THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE  
—THE LAYERS OF AIR  
AROUND THE EARTH.



WHY ARE SPACESHIPS LAUNCHED WITH ROCKETS?  
by Wanda

Spaceships cannot just fly into outer space. They need rockets to break free from the powerful grip of Earth's gravity.

WHAT IS GRAVITY?  
by Michael

Gravity is the force that pulls objects toward the center of the Earth.

Other planets have gravity, too. Larger planets usually have more gravity. Smaller planets usually have less gravity.

## WHY DO PEOPLE FEEL WEIGHTLESS IN SPACE?

by Phil

Gravity gives objects weight. Without a large mass nearby — such as a planet — there is no gravity to pull objects down, so they do not have weight.

When the roar of the rockets stopped, we looked around. Everything had changed. The bus had turned into a spaceship. We were all dressed in space suits, and we were lighter than feathers. We floated above our seats!

I'M FLYING!

I'M FLYING  
HIGHER THAN  
YOU ARE!

LOOK! IT'S  
A U.F.B.

A WHAT?

AN UNIDENTIFIED  
FLYING BANANA.



Far behind, in the black sky,  
we saw the planet Earth  
getting smaller and smaller.  
We were traveling in space!  
We had become astronauts!

CLASS, NOTICE EARTH'S  
BLUE OCEANS,  
WHITE CLOUDS  
AND BROWN LAND.

LOOK HOW SMALL THE EARTH  
SEEMS FROM HERE!

IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

I THINK I  
HAVE TO GO TO  
THE BATHROOM.

The Friz said our first stop  
would be the Moon.

We got off the bus and looked around.

There was no air, no water,  
no sign of life.

All we saw were dust and rock  
and lots and lots of craters.

Ms. Frizzle said the craters were  
formed billions of years ago  
when the Moon was hit by meteorites.  
Meteorites are falling chunks  
of rock and metal.

WE ARE SO LIGHT  
ON THE MOON!

THAT'S BECAUSE  
THE MOON HAS  
LESS GRAVITY  
THAN THE EARTH.

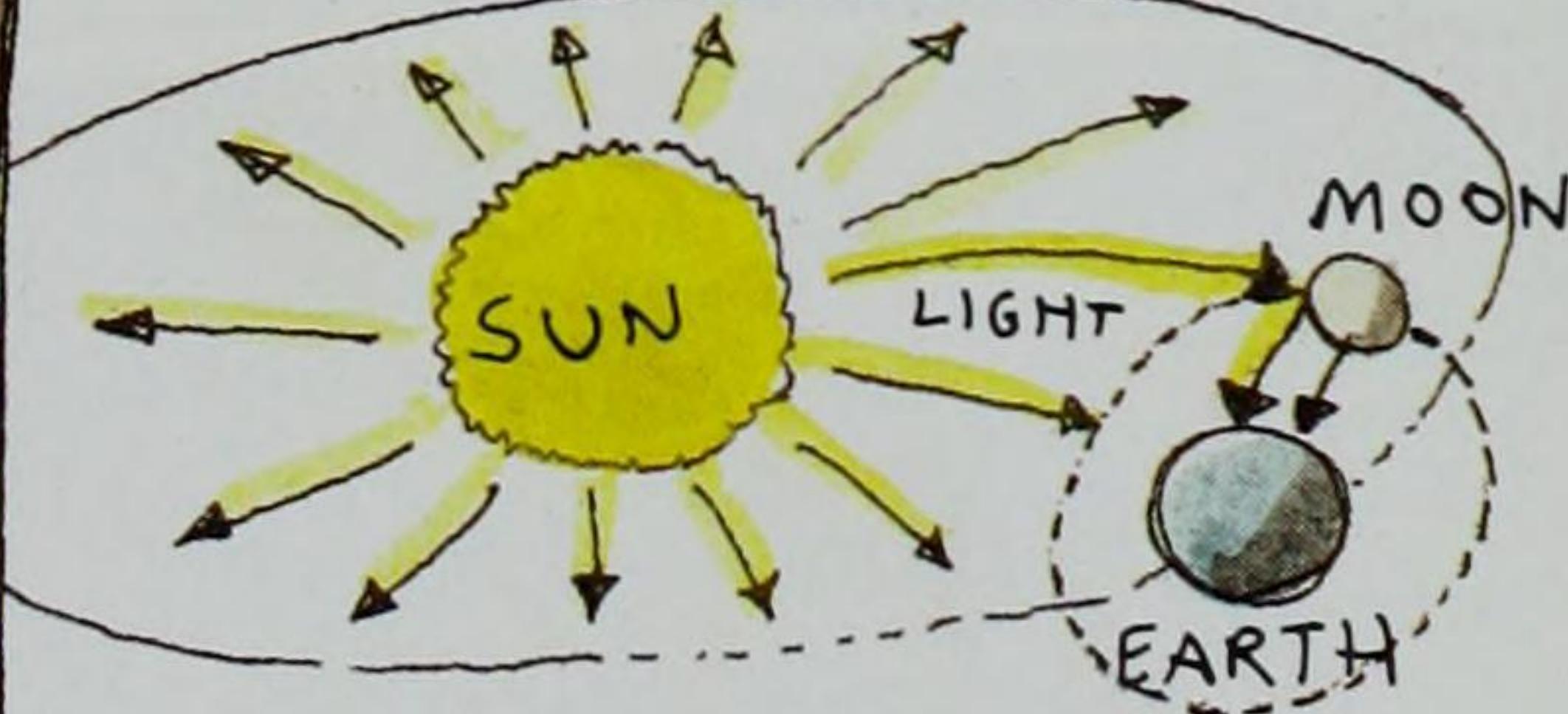


It was fun on the Moon.  
We wanted to play,  
but Ms. Frizzle said it was time to go.  
So we got back on the bus.  
"We'll start with the Sun,  
the center of the solar system,"  
said the Friz, and we blasted off.



- o **WHAT MAKES THE MOON SHINE?** by Rachel  
The Moon does not make any light of its own. The moonlight we see from Earth is really light from the Sun. It hits the Moon and bounces off, the way light is reflected from a mirror.

- o **THE MOON'S ORBIT** by Amanda Jane  
The Moon travels in orbit around the Earth, just as the Earth travels around the Sun.



## THE SUN IS A STAR

by Carmen

Our Sun is an average star like the ones we see in the night sky.

WHICH STAR DO WE SEE ONLY IN THE DAYTIME?

THAT'S EASY:  
THE SUN.



## HOW BIG IS THE SUN?

by Gregory

Our sun measures more than a million kilometers across.

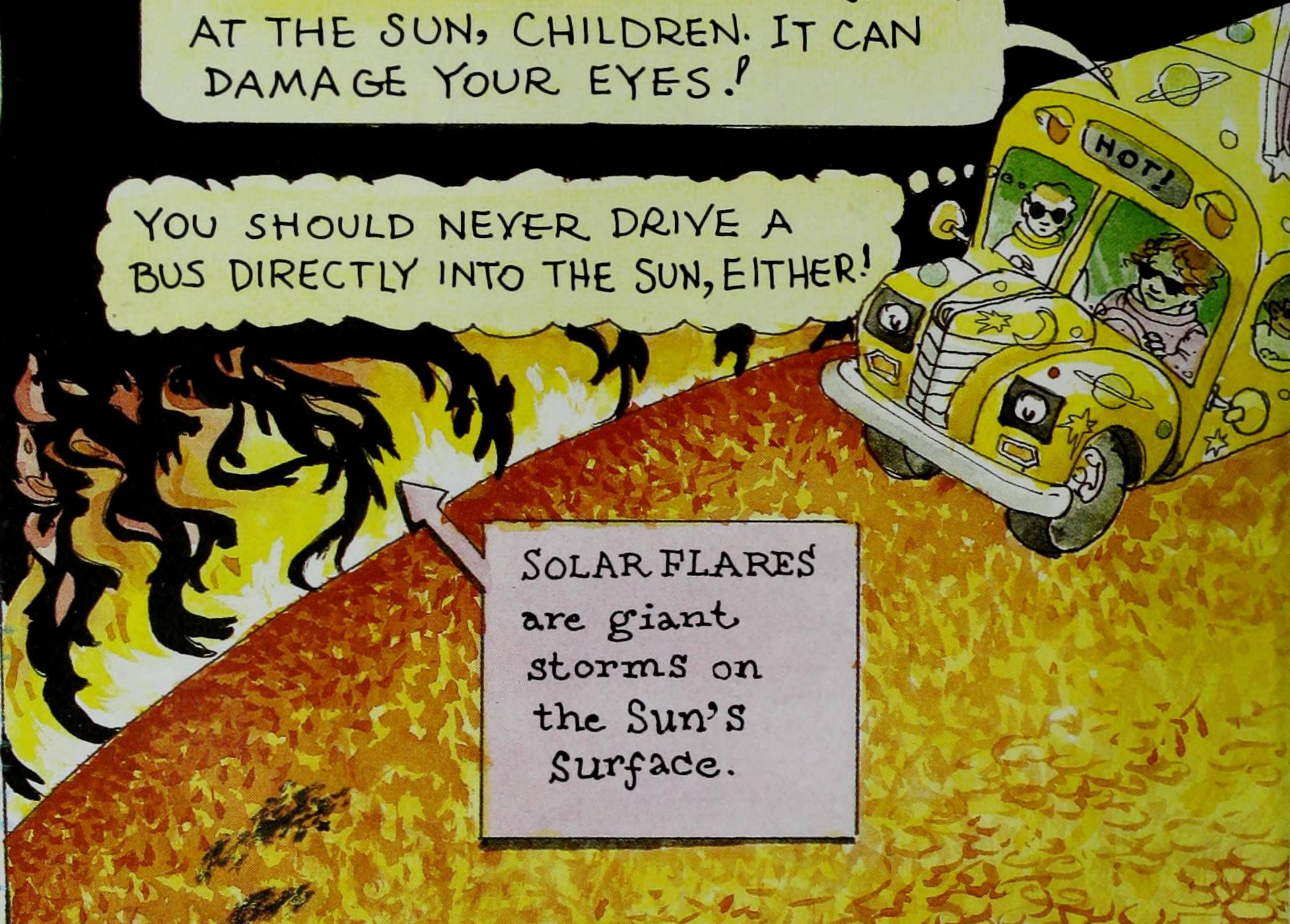
More than one million Earths could fit inside it!

We zoomed toward the Sun, the biggest, brightest, and hottest object in the solar system.

Jets of super-hot gases shot out at us from the surface. Thank goodness Ms. Frizzle didn't get too close!

YOU SHOULD NEVER LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE SUN, CHILDREN. IT CAN DAMAGE YOUR EYES!

YOU SHOULD NEVER DRIVE A BUS DIRECTLY INTO THE SUN, EITHER!



SOLAR FLARES are giant storms on the Sun's surface.

She steered around to the other side and pulled away.

"We'll be seeing all the planets in order, class," explained Frizzie. "Mercury is the first planet, the closest to the Sun."

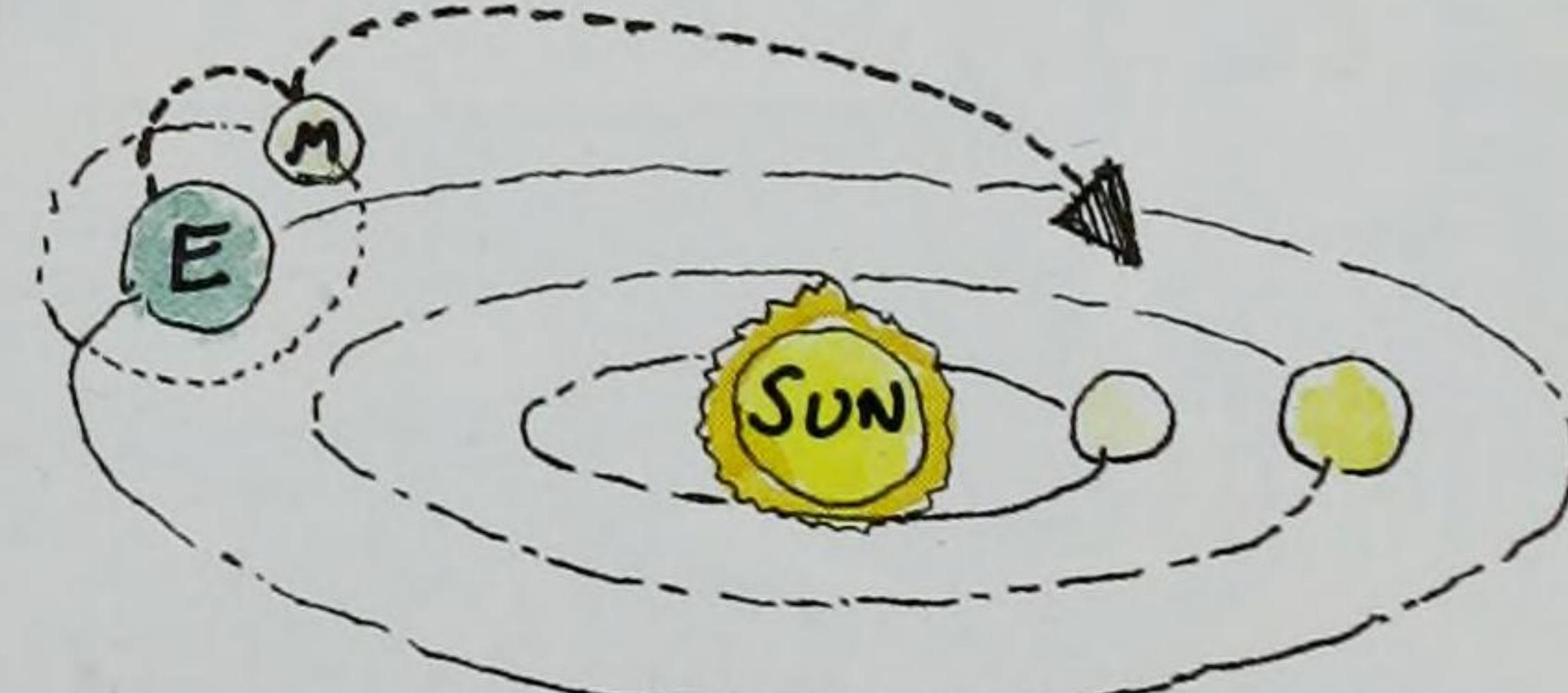


## HOW HOT IS THE SUN?

by Florrie

At the center of the sun the temperature is about 15 million degrees Centigrade! The sun is so hot it heats planets that are millions of kilometers away.

## Our Path So Far



Mercury was a dead, sun-baked planet.

"This planet is a lot like our Moon.

There is no water and hardly any air," said the Friz.

"Notice the craters on its surface as we pass by."

THE SUN LOOKS TWICE AS BIG HERE AS IT DOES FROM EARTH.

THAT'S BECAUSE MERCURY IS SO CLOSE.

Too CLOSE! LET'S GO!

YOUR WEIGHT AND FATE  
ON MERCURY



You will  
vacation in  
a sunny spot.



Before long, we felt ourselves being pulled in by the gravity of Venus —the second planet from the Sun.

Venus was completely covered by a thick layer of yellowish clouds.

"We will now explore the surface of Venus," said Ms. Frizzle.

WE'RE GAINING WEIGHT, AND WE HAVEN'T EVEN HAD LUNCH.

WE WILL BE HEAVIER HERE THAN ON THE MOON OR MERCURY BECAUSE VENUS HAS MORE GRAVITY.

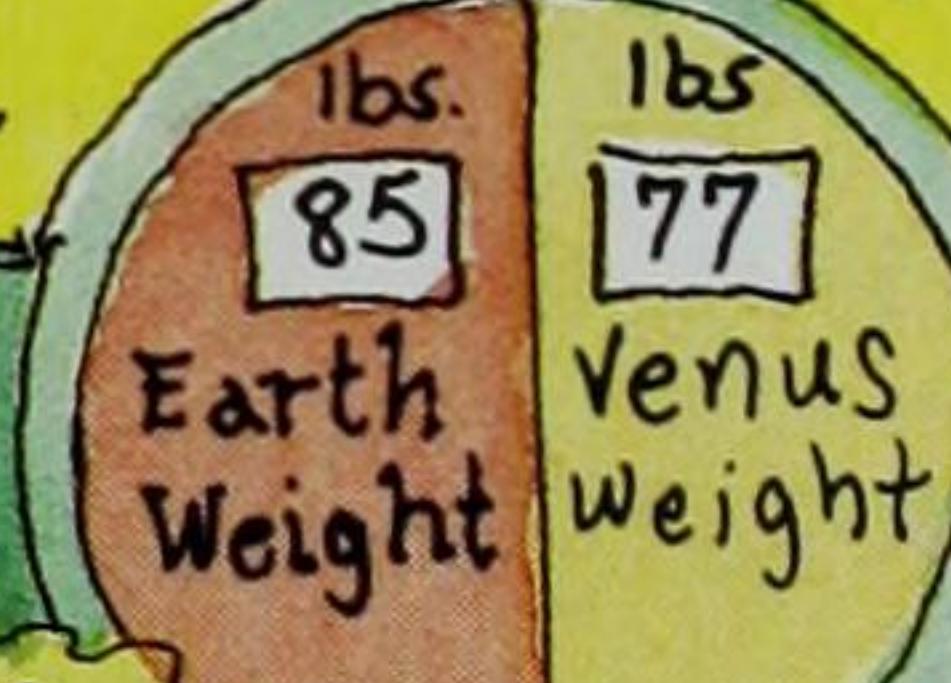
## WHY ARE VENUS'S CLOUDS YELLOW?

by Tim

Earth's clouds are white because they are made of water vapor.

Venus's clouds are made mostly of a deadly yellow poison called sulfuric acid.

YOUR WEIGHT AND FATE ON VENUS



Your future looks cloudy.

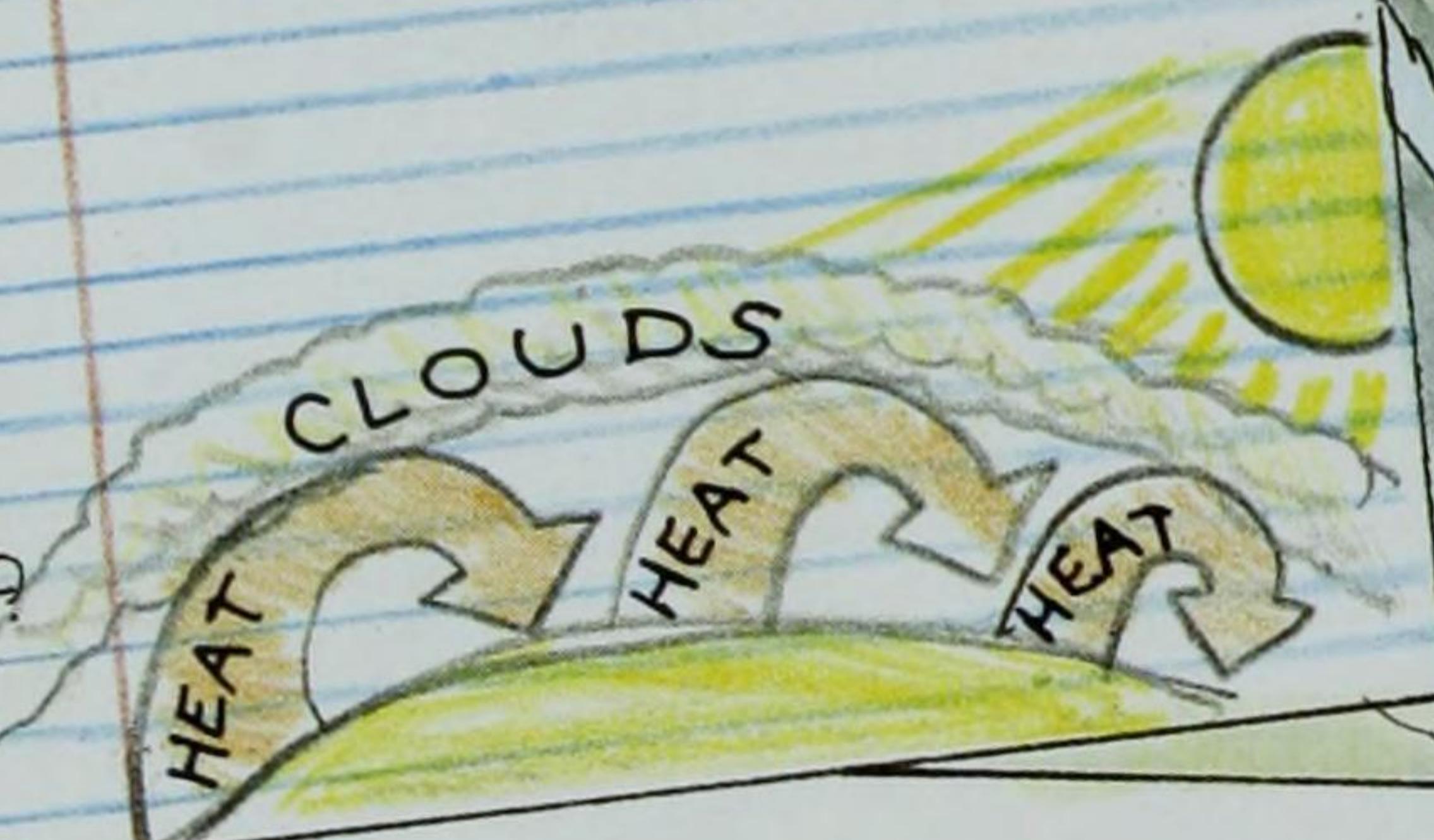
SO DOES VENUS!

# WHY IS IT SO HOT ON VENUS?

by Ralph

Venus's atmosphere has a lot of carbon dioxide gas in it. Carbon dioxide acts like a blanket to hold heat in.

to hold heat in.



When heat is trapped like this by a planet's atmosphere, it is called the "greenhouse effect."



Below the clouds, Venus was as dry as a desert.

The ground was covered with rocks. And it was HOT!

It was about 400 degrees Centigrade! That's *much* hotter than an oven baking cookies!

THERE'S NO LIFE ON VENUS, CLASS.

IT'S TOO HOT!

IT'S TOO DRY!

THERE'S TOO MUCH ACID!

LET'S LEAVE!

The air was so heavy  
we could feel it pressing down on us!  
Ms. Frizzle said there might be volcanoes  
around, too.

We said, "Let's get out of here!"

"Our next stop is Mars,  
the red planet, fourth from the Sun,"  
announced the Friz.

"On our way, we'll be passing through  
the orbit of Earth, the third planet."

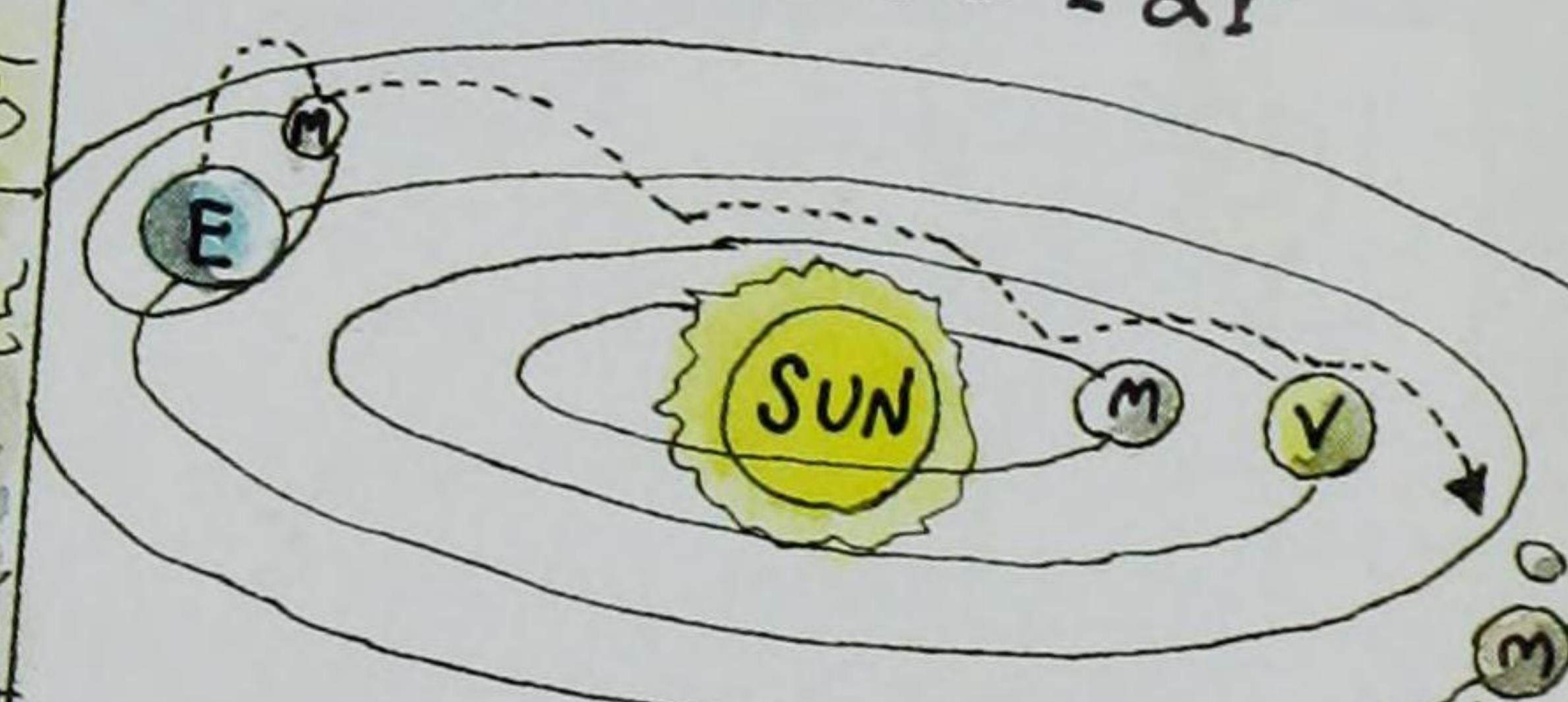
The bus lifted off with a roar.

I'VE BEEN TO MARS  
LOTS OF TIMES.

JUST  
IGNORE HER.

IT NEVER RAINS  
ON VENUS  
by Dorothy Ann  
Venus's clouds  
never make rain  
because it is too hot  
for rain to form. Any  
liquid on Venus dries  
up instantly.

Our Path So Far



## WHY AREN'T MARS'S MOONS ROUND?

by John

Large moons are round because of their gravity. Billions of years ago, when large moons formed, their gravity pulled in their material evenly and made them round.

The moons of Mars are so small that

they don't have enough gravity to be round.

THOSE ARE MOONS?

THEY LOOK LIKE POTATOES WITH CRATERS.

As we came close to Mars, we passed its two moons, which are called Phobos and Deimos. Compared to our Moon, they were tiny. And they weren't even round!

Phobos  
(18 miles long)

Deimos  
(9 miles long)

Volcano

LONG AGO, THERE MAY HAVE BEEN WATER IN THOSE CHANNELS.

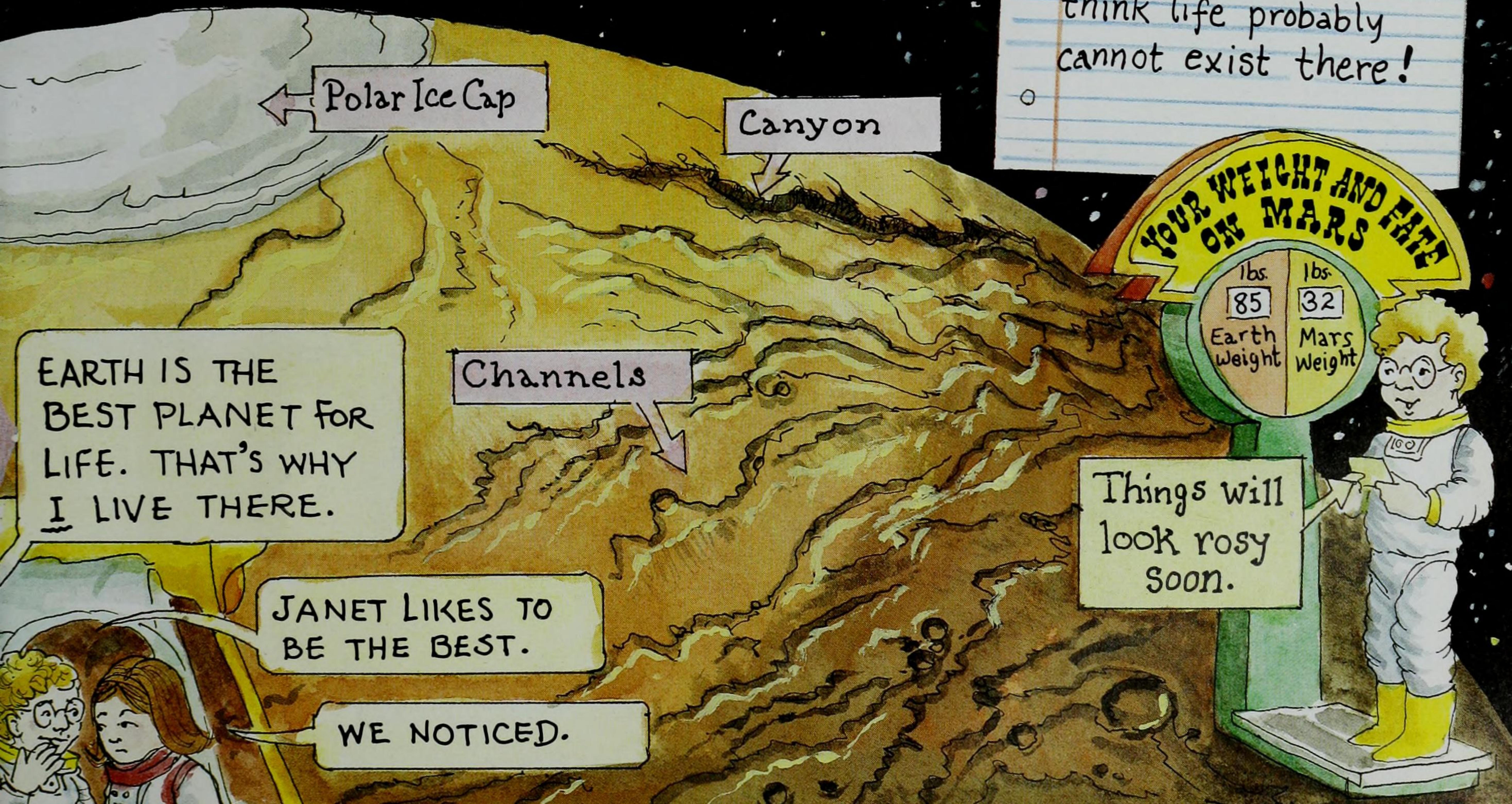
YES, BUT TODAY ALL MARS'S WATER IS FROZEN IN THE POLAR ICE CAPS.

Looking down, we saw a huge canyon.

Ms. Frizzle said it was as long as the United States.

There was a volcano three times taller than the tallest volcano on Earth.

And all around, there were channels that looked like dried-up river beds.



## IS THERE LIFE ON MARS?

by Molly

No life has been found on Mars.

Living things need water, and there

is no liquid water on Mars.

So space scientists think life probably cannot exist there!

## WHY IS MARS RED?

by Arnold

Mars looks red  
because there is a lot  
of rusty iron in  
its soil.

The sky looks  
pinkish because of  
red dust in the air.

We landed and started walking around. Suddenly a huge dust storm blew up. Ms. Frizzle said dust storms on Mars can last for months. They may cover the whole planet. We scrambled back on the bus and headed out!

ARE THERE ANY  
ALIENS HERE?

I DON'T SEE ANY.

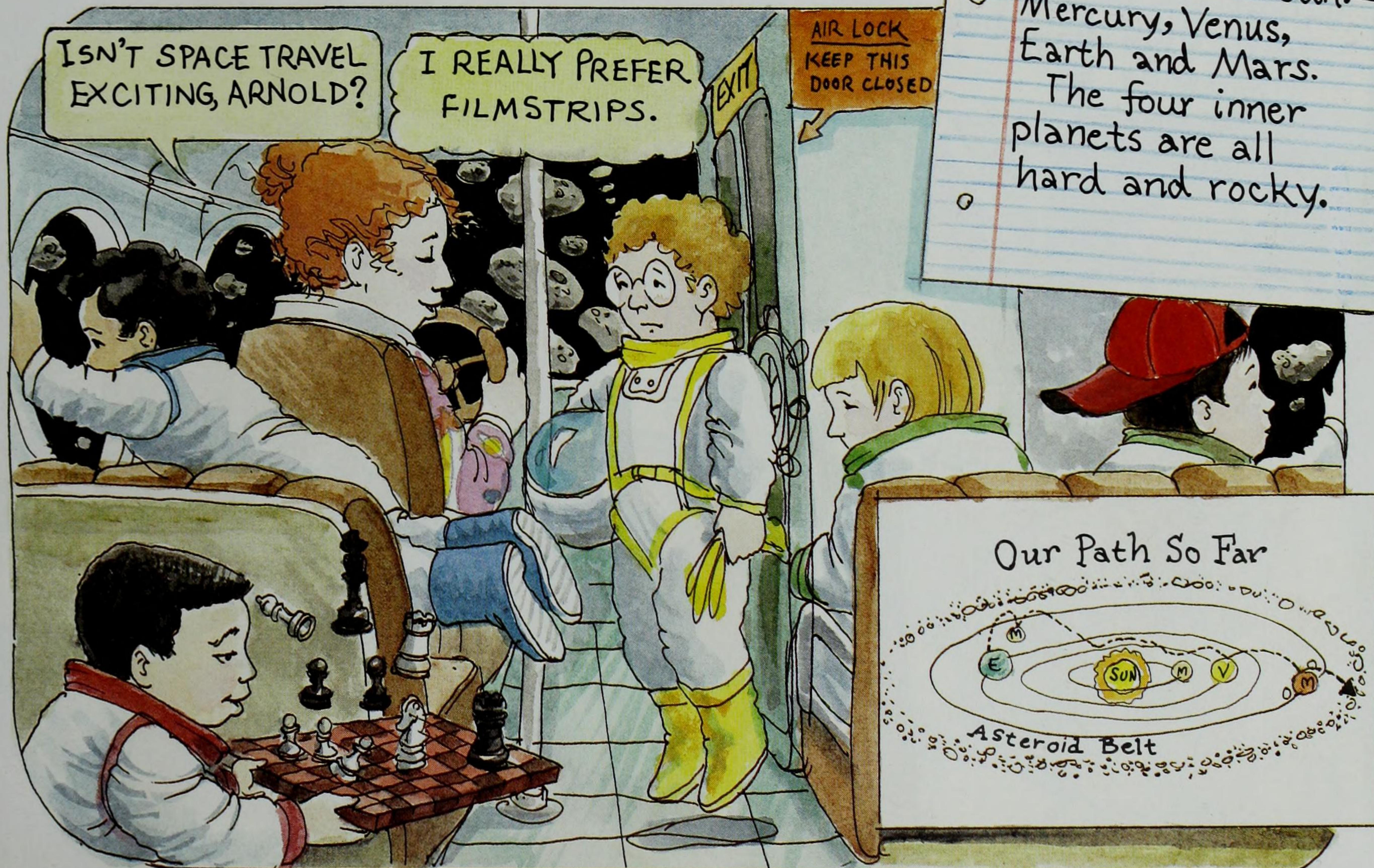
DON'T BE  
TOO SURE.



"Mars is the last of what we call the inner planets!"

Ms. Frizzle shouted above the roar of the rockets.

"We will now be going through the asteroid belt to the outer planets!"



o WHAT ARE THE INNER PLANETS?

by Alex

The inner planets are the four planets closest to the sun—

Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars.

The four inner planets are all hard and rocky.

## THE ASTEROID BELT by Shirley

The area between the inner and the outer planets is called the asteroid belt. It is filled with thousands and thousands of asteroids.

## WHAT ARE ASTEROIDS?

by Florrie

Asteroids are chunks of rock and metal in orbit around the Sun.

Scientists think they are the building blocks of a planet that never formed.

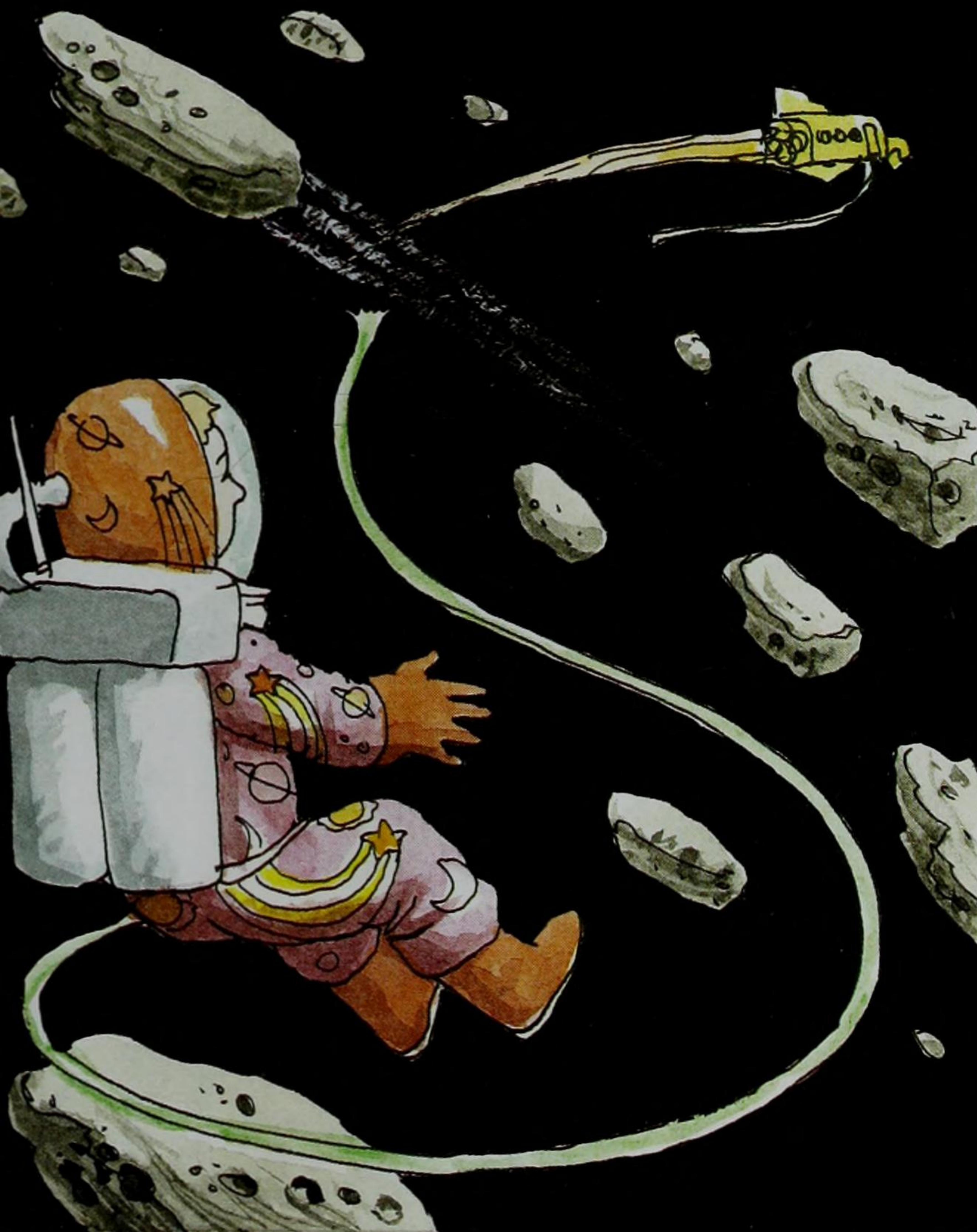
Thousands of asteroids were spinning all around us.

All at once, we heard the tinkling of broken glass. One of our taillights had been hit by an asteroid. Ms. Frizzle put the bus on autopilot and went out to take a look. She kept on talking about asteroids over the bus radio.

THE LARGEST ASTEROID IS ONLY  $\frac{1}{3}$  THE SIZE OF OUR MOON. MOST ASTEROIDS ARE THE SIZE OF HOUSES OR SMALLER.

I WISH SHE'D COME INSIDE.

Suddenly there was a snap.  
Ms. Frizzle's tether line had broken!  
Without warning,  
the rockets fired up,  
and the bus zoomed away!  
The autopilot was malfunctioning.



On the radio, Ms. Frizzle's voice grew  
fainter and fainter.  
Then she was gone.  
We were on our own!  
We were lost in the solar system!



Most of us were too scared to move.  
But Janet started searching the bus.  
In the glove compartment  
she found Ms. Frizzle's lesson book.  
As she began reading from it,  
a huge planet came into view.  
"Class, this is Jupiter," Janet read.  
"It's the first of the outer planets,  
and the largest planet in the solar system."

"As we approach  
Jupiter, we can  
see some of its  
16 moons."

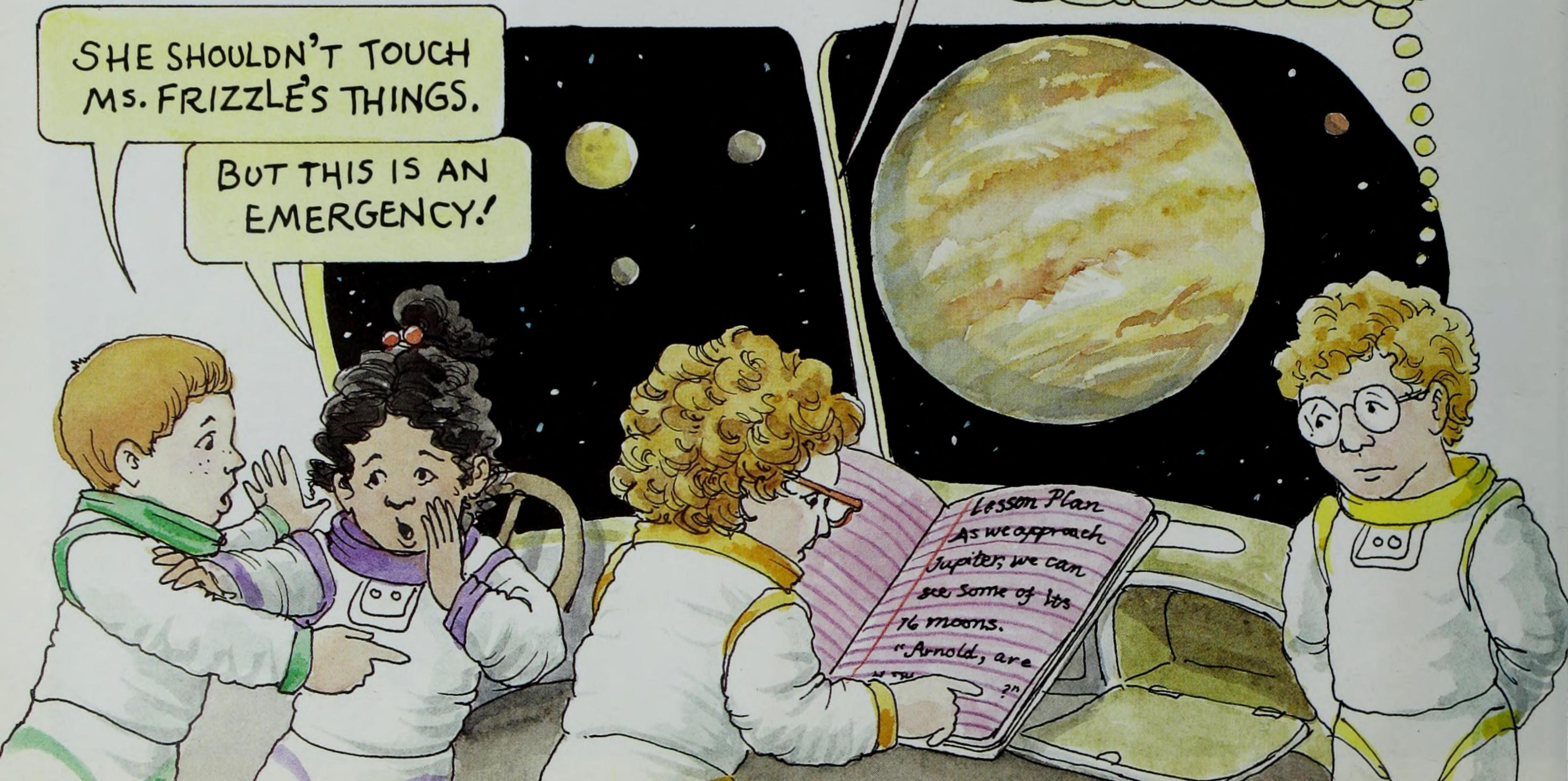
"Arnold, are you listening?"

BOY, MS. FRIZZLE  
PLANS EVERYTHING!

SHE SHOULDN'T TOUCH  
MS. FRIZZLE'S THINGS.

BUT THIS IS AN  
EMERGENCY!

Lesson Plan  
As we approach  
Jupiter, we can  
see some of its  
16 moons.  
"Arnold, are  
you listening?"



We thought the school bus  
was going to land.

But there was no solid ground to land on.

Jupiter is a "gas giant"—  
a planet made almost entirely of gas.

As we left Jupiter,  
we wondered and worried.  
Would we ever get home?

Great Red Spot

"Jupiter is so big  
that more than  
one thousand Earths  
could fit inside it."

Ms. FRIZZLE, WHERE ARE YOU?

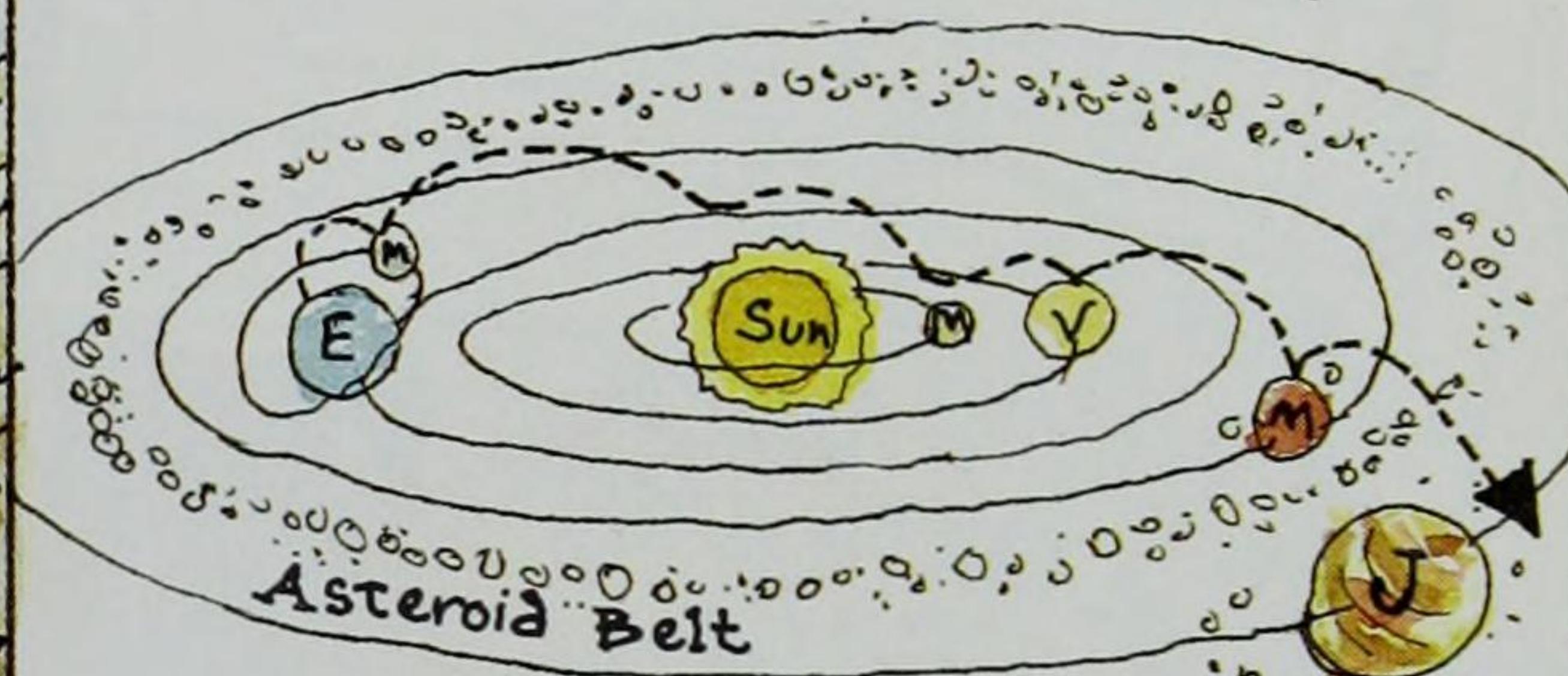
WHAT IS JUPITER'S  
GREAT RED SPOT?

by Gregory

The Red Spot is

probably a huge  
storm of swirling  
gas that has lasted  
for hundreds and  
hundreds of years.

Our Path (Continued)



YOUR WEIGHT AND FATE  
ON JUPITER

1bs.	85	1bs.	247
Earth Weight			Jupiter Weight

Don't worry, you'll  
lose those extra  
pounds, Soon!



# WHAT ARE SATURN'S RINGS?

by Rachel

Saturn's rings are made of ice, rock and dust—all in orbit around the planet.

The next sight made us forget our troubles. It was Saturn, a gas planet like Jupiter. It had swirling clouds and lots of moons. But the most incredible thing about Saturn was its rings. It was the most beautiful planet in the solar system!

"There are thousands of rings around Saturn, class."

THEY LOOK LIKE THE GROOVES IN A PHONOGRAPH RECORD.

SATURN IS THE GROOVIEST PLANET, MAN!





- THE FLOATING PLANET  
by Phoebe
- Saturn is made of materials that are lighter than water.
- If there were a bathtub big enough, Saturn could float in it!

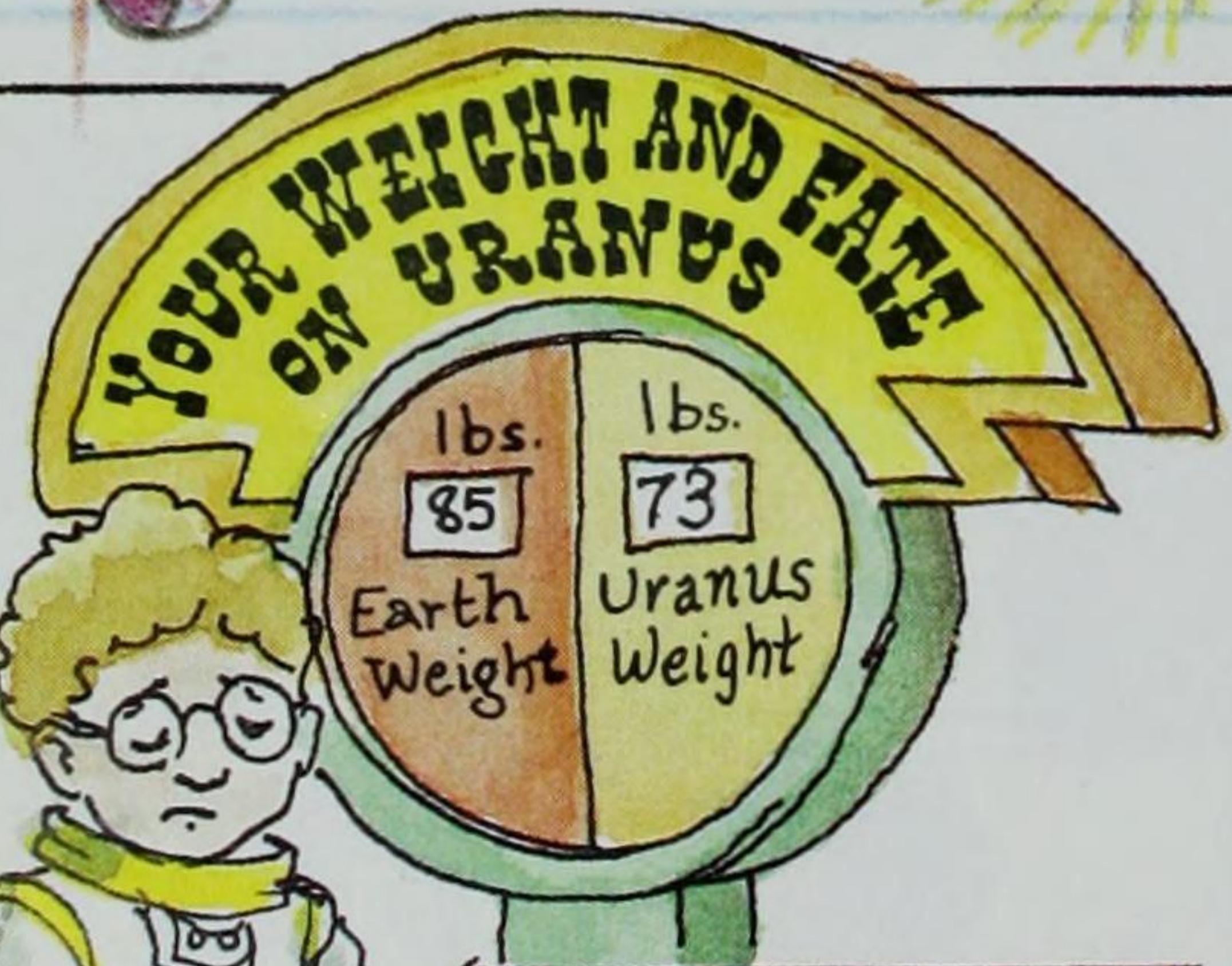
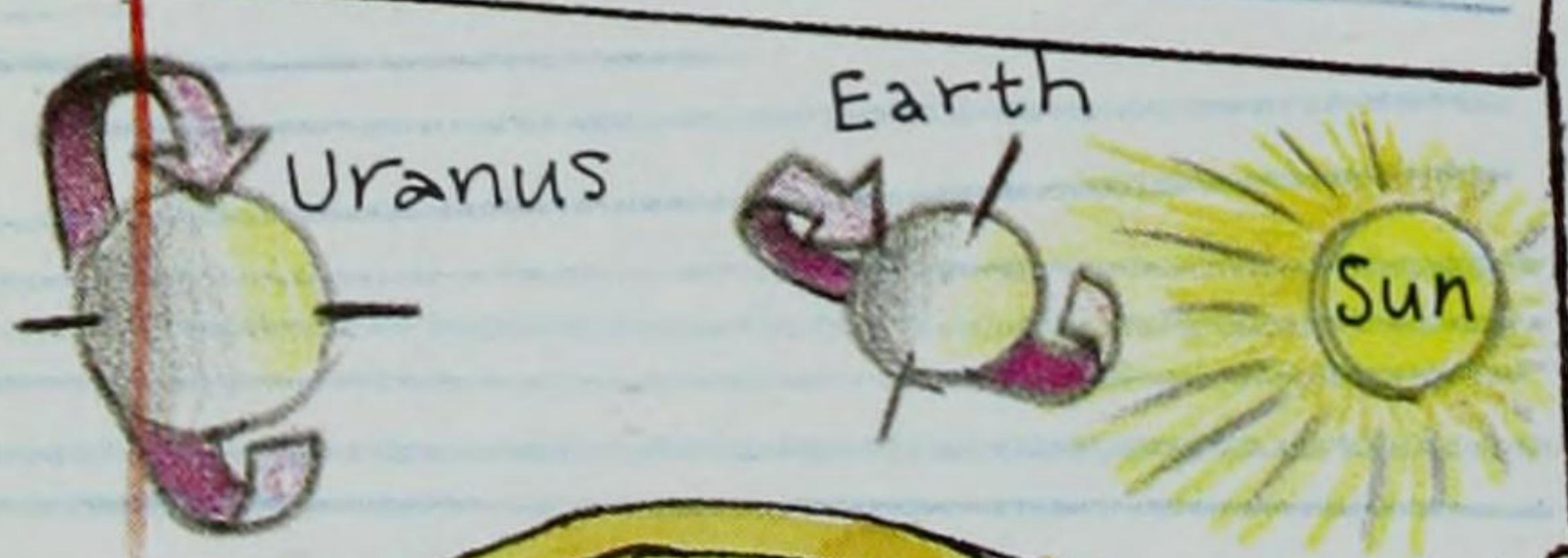


## THE TIPPED OVER PLANET

by Ralph

Uranus spins  
differently from the  
other planets.

It seems to be lying  
on its side compared  
to most other planets  
in the Solar system.



Feeling blue?  
You may be  
homesick.

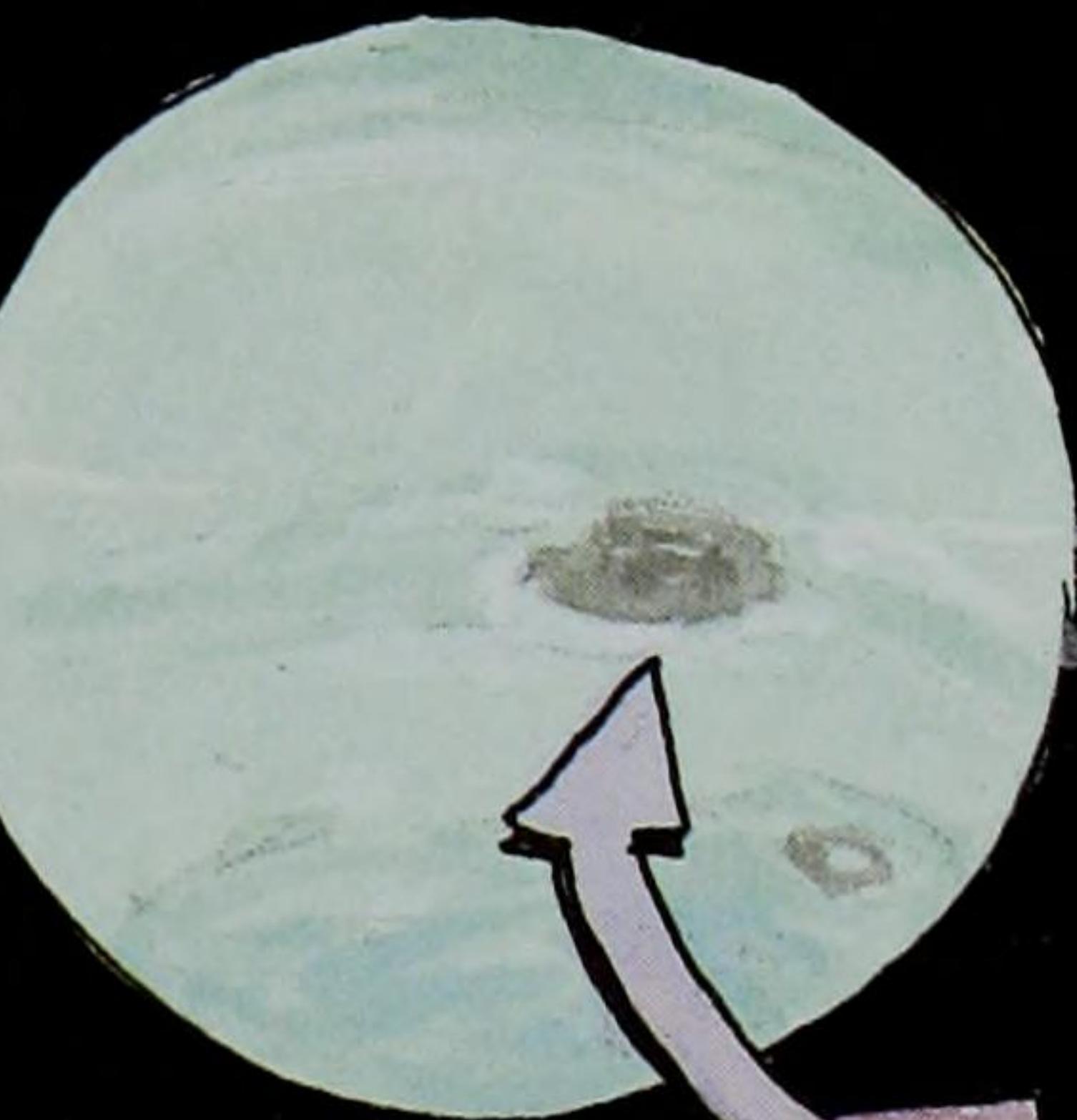
Next was Uranus, a blue-green gas planet with faint gray rings and moons. Some scientists think they might be made of chunks of graphite—the material used in pencils on Earth.



The bus was going faster and faster, and we couldn't control the autopilot. We swept past stormy Neptune, another blue-green planet—eighth from the Sun. All we could think about was finding Ms. Frizzle!

"Neptune is the last of the giant gas planets."

WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF GAS OURSELVES!

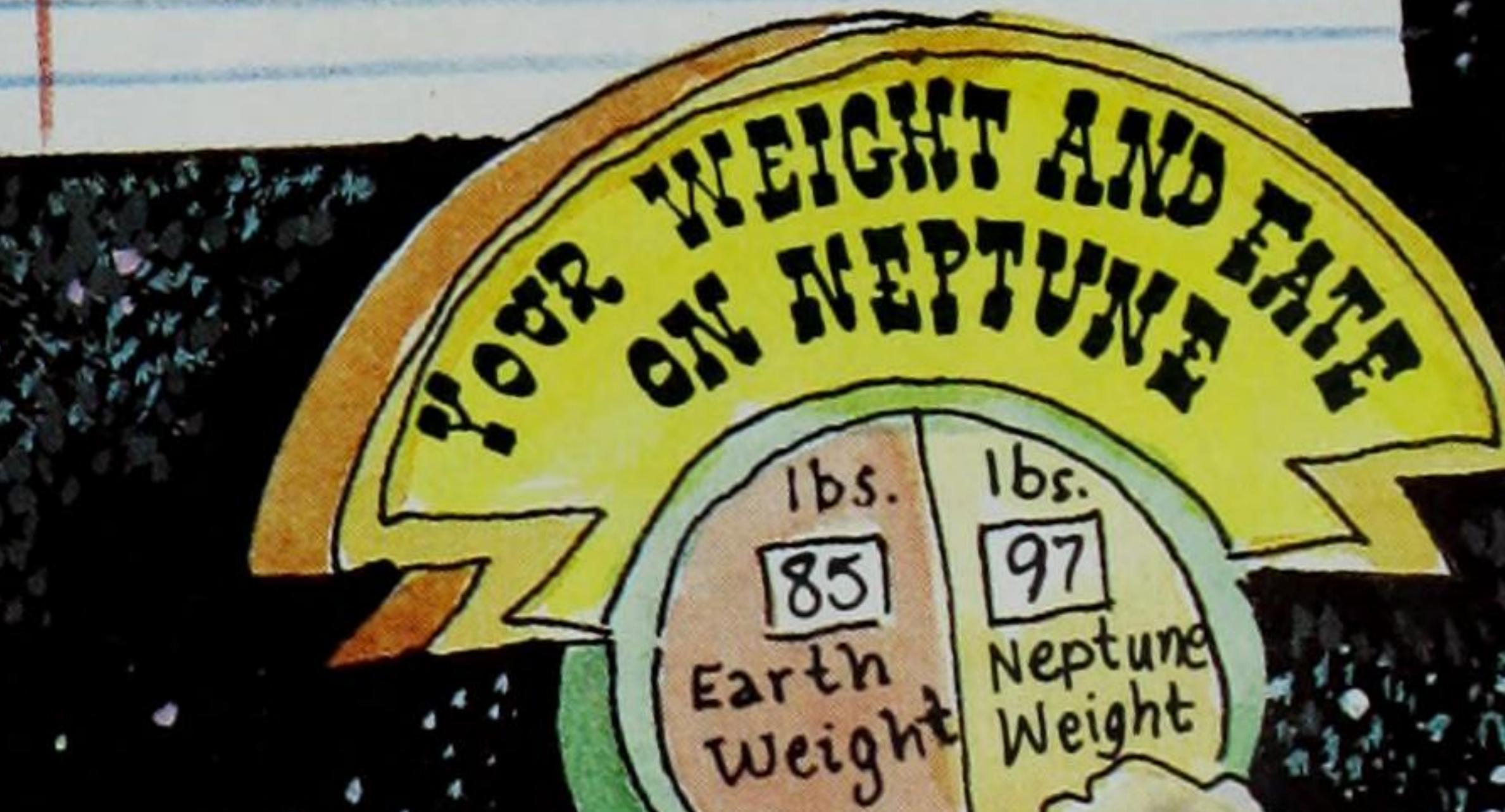


Great Dark Spot

AND THE NEAREST SERVICE STATION IS 4,000 MILLION KILOMETERS AWAY.

- HOW LONG IS A YEAR?  
by Tim  
A year is the time it takes for a planet to go all around the sun. Neptune and Uranus are so far away from the sun that they have very long years.  
○ One year on Uranus is 84 Earth years.

- Neptune's year is 165 Earth years.



You will have a happy birthday 165 years from now.

# IS PLUTO A REAL PLANET?

by Wanda

Some scientists think  
Pluto was once a moon  
of Neptune. It may  
have escaped from the  
orbit around Neptune.  
Then it became a real  
planet in orbit around  
the Sun. Pluto was  
the last planet discovered  
in the known Solar  
system.



We were going so fast,  
we almost missed seeing the ninth planet,  
tiny Pluto,\* and its moon, Charon.

We were so far away from the Sun that it  
didn't look big anymore.

It just looked like a very bright star.  
We were leaving the solar system.

*\*Every 248 years, Neptune's orbit is further out than Pluto's.  
Then Neptune is the ninth planet. But most of the time, Pluto  
is the ninth planet from the Sun.*

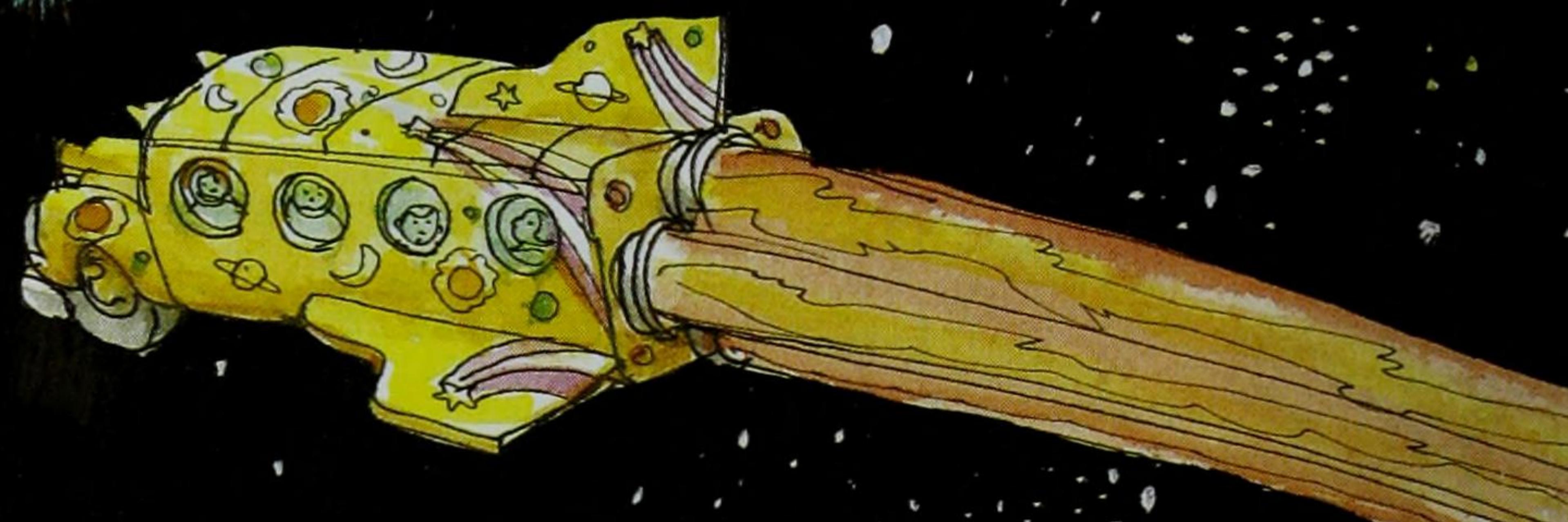
THERE'S NOTHING  
OUT THERE —  
BUT STARS.

MAYBE THERE'S  
A TENTH PLANET  
WAITING TO BE  
DISCOVERED.

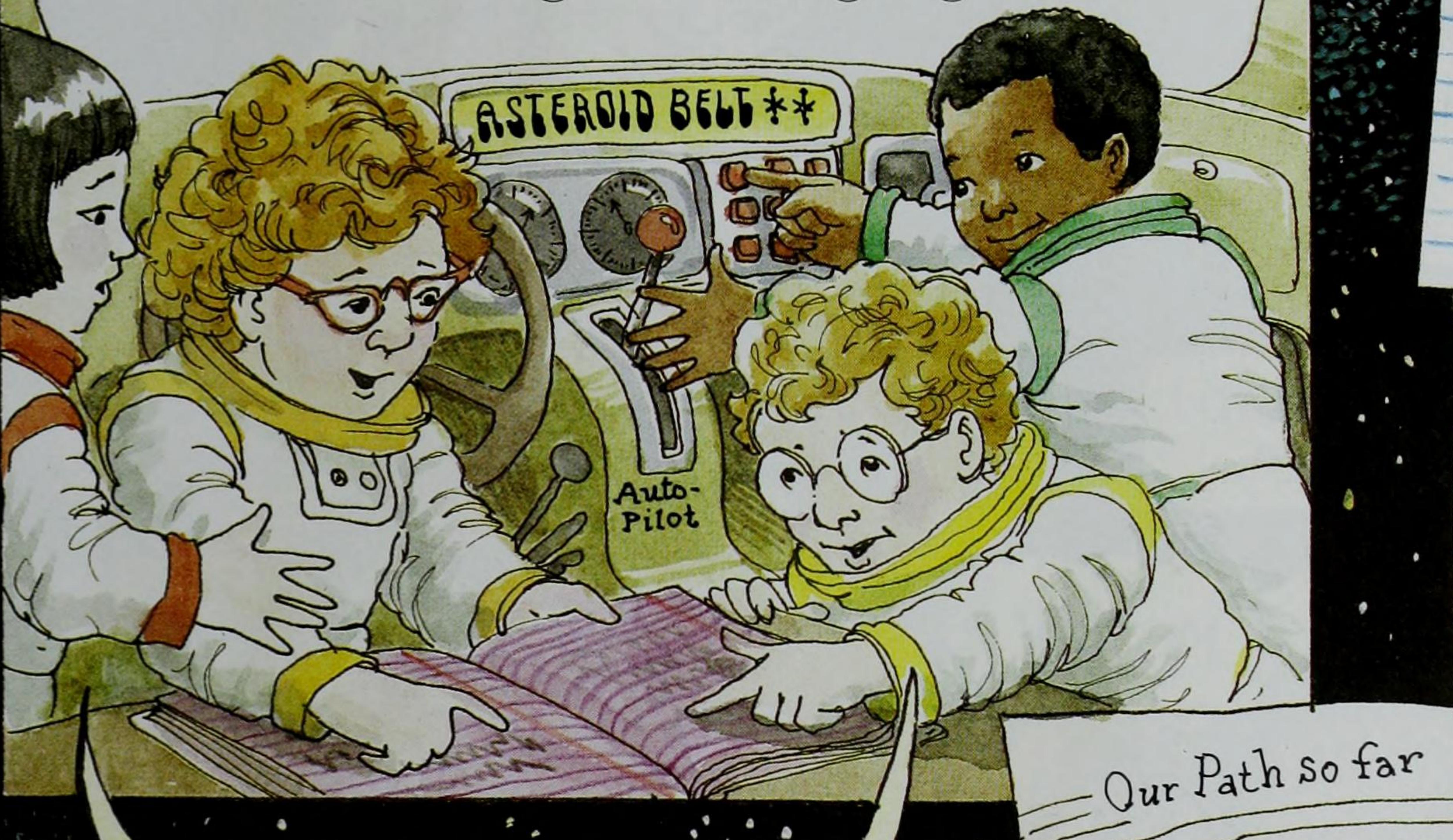
IT'LL HAVE  
TO WAIT.

I HOPE  
MS. FRIZZLE  
IS WAITING, TOO.

CHARON  
PLUTO



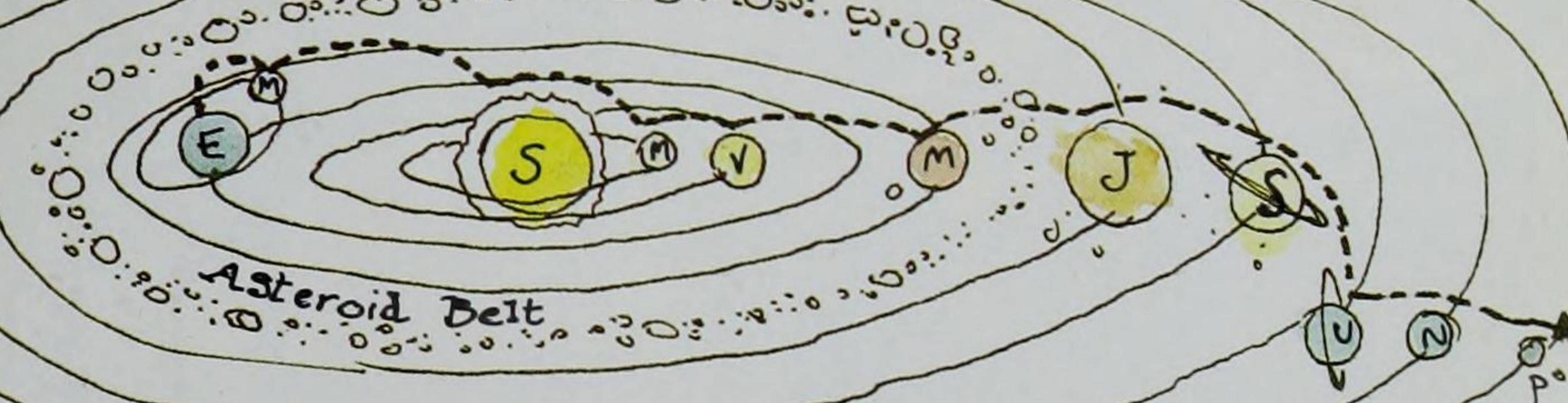
Janet flipped rapidly through Ms. Frizzle's book. Suddenly she found something new—the instructions for the autopilot. We punched in ASTEROID BELT on the control panel. Slowly the bus turned around. It was working! We were going back!



JANET REALLY  
SAVED THE DAY.

I TOLD YOU  
SHE'S A GOOD  
KID.

Our Path so far



BEYOND PLUTO:  
STARS AND MORE STARS  
by Alex

Beyond our solar system are billions and billions of stars. There are so many stars and they are so far away that our minds cannot even imagine it.

Some of those stars may have planets, and some of those

planets could have life on them, just like our earth.

When we reached the asteroid belt,  
there was Ms. Frizzle!



HEY, THAT ASTEROID  
IS DRESSED FUNNY.

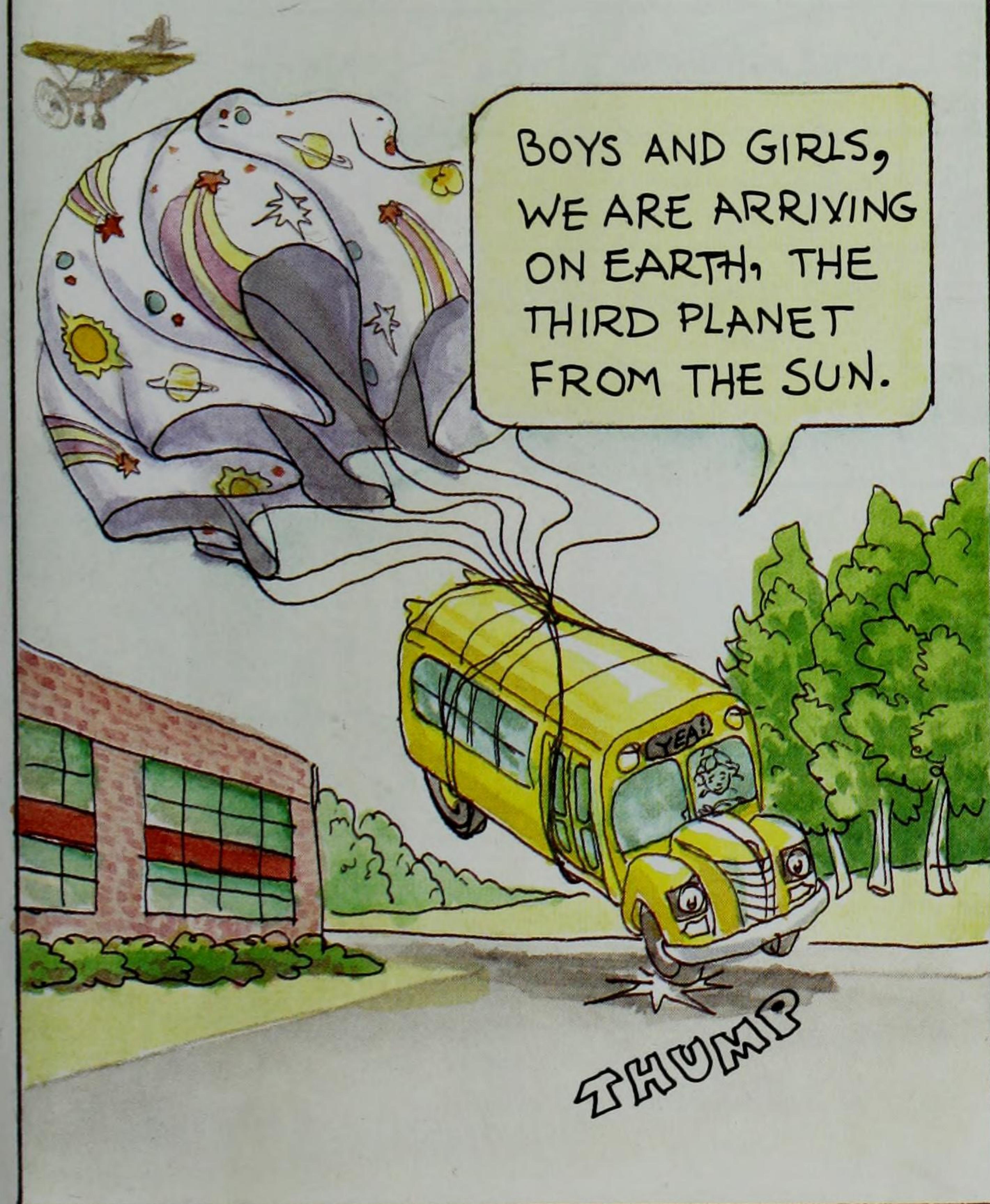
THAT'S NOT AN  
ASTEROID, IT'S  
MS. FRIZZLE!

BOY, AM I GLAD  
TO SEE HER.

ME TOO!



With Frizzie back at the wheel,  
the bus headed straight for Earth.  
We reentered the atmosphere,  
landed with a thump,  
and looked around.

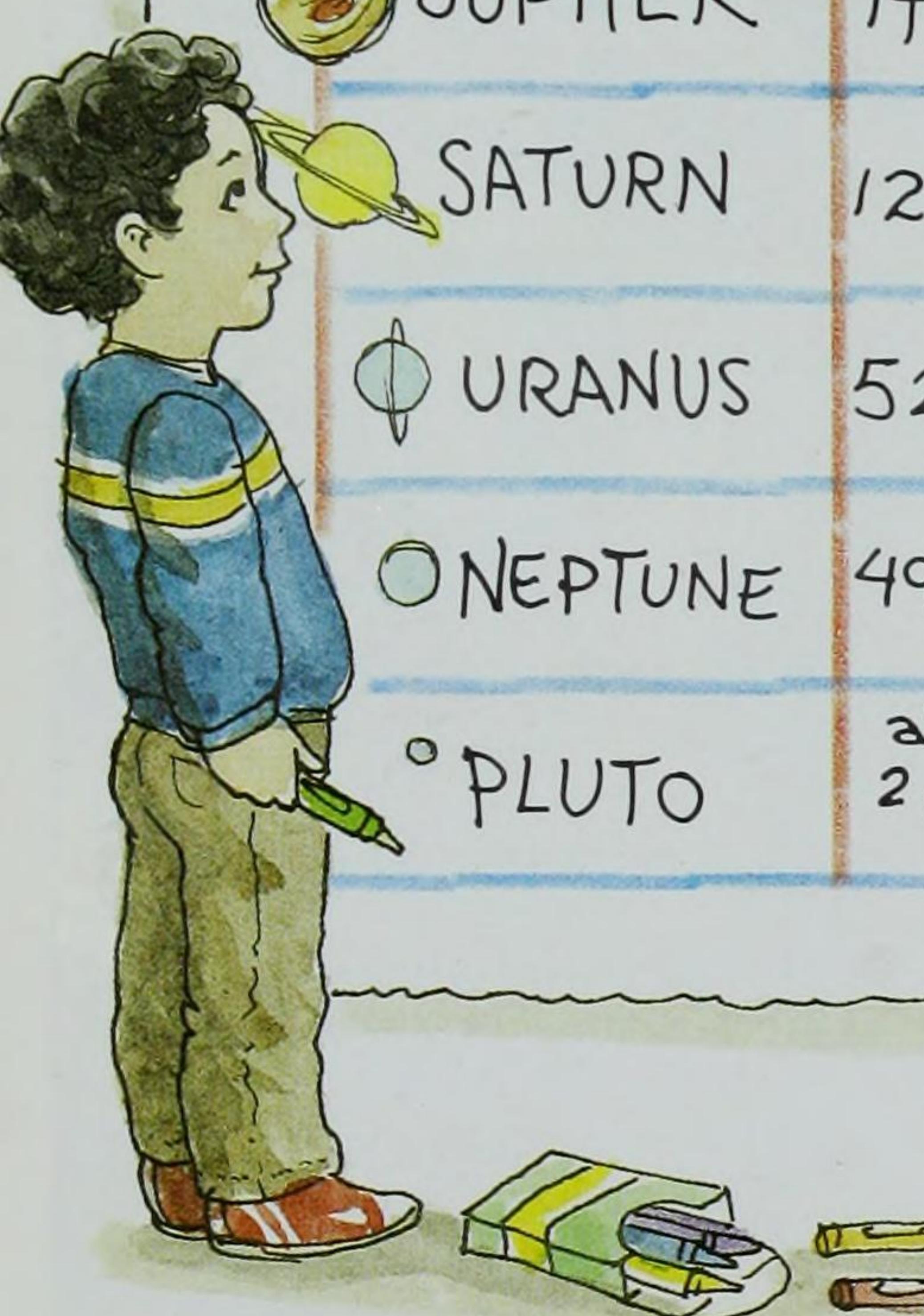


We were in the school parking lot again.  
The rockets were gone.  
The space suits were gone.  
The bus was a wreck.  
Everything was back to normal.




# OUR PLANET CHART

PLANET	HOW BIG ACROSS	HOW LONG ONE ROTATION (DAY AND NIGHT)	HOW LONG ONE YEAR	HOW FAR FROM THE SUN	HOW MANY MOONS	HOW MANY RINGS
MERCURY	4,900 km.	59 days	88 days	57.9 million km.	None	None
VENUS	12,100 km.	243 days	224.7 days	108.2 million km.	None	None
EARTH	12,756 km.	24 hours	365.3 days	149.6 million km.	1	None
MARS	6,800 km.	24.5 hours	687 days	227.8 million km.	2	None
JUPITER	142,800 km.	9.8 hours	12 Earth Years	778 million km.	at least 16	2
SATURN	120,660 km.	10.7 hours	29.5 Earth Years	1,427 million km.	at least 17	Many
URANUS	52,400 km.	17 hours	84 Earth Years	2,870 million km.	at least 15	10
NEPTUNE	49,500 km.	16 hours	165 Earth Years	4,500 million km.	8	4
PLUTO	about 2,300 km.	6 days	248 Earth years	5,900 million km.	1	None



In the classroom,  
we made a terrific  
chart of the planets  
and a mobile of the solar system.

# OUR SOLAR SYSTEM





At last, it was time to go home.  
It had been a typical day  
in Ms. Frizzle's class.  
Now we had only one problem.  
Would anyone ever believe us  
when we told about our trip?

WE WENT TO  
OUTER SPACE  
TODAY.

OF COURSE  
YOU DID,  
DEAR.



AND THERE WAS  
MS. FRIZZLE,  
FLOATING  
AMONG THE  
ASTEROIDS!

WHAT AN  
IMAGINATION!



MY FAVORITE PLANET  
WAS JUPITER...  
NO, MAYBE MARS...  
OF COURSE SATURN  
WAS GORGEOUS, TOO...

MOM, MAKE  
HIM STOP!



WE COULD HAVE BEEN  
LOST IN SPACE FOREVER.

EAT YOUR SALAD,  
HONEY.

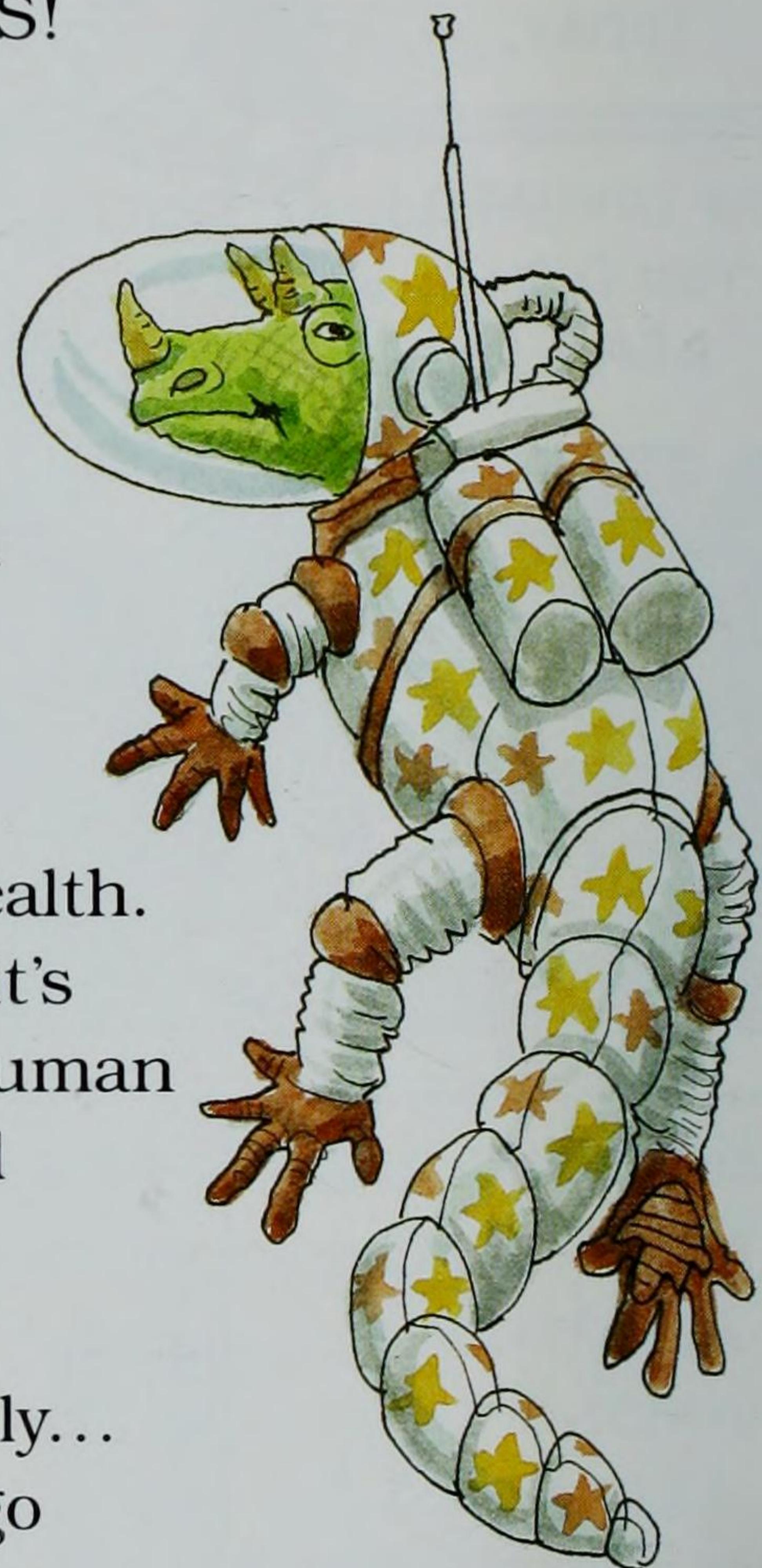


ATTENTION, READERS!

DO NOT ATTEMPT THIS TRIP ON YOUR OWN SCHOOL BUS!

Three reasons why not:

1. Attaching rockets to your school bus will upset your teacher, the school principal, and your parents. It will not get you into orbit anyway. An ordinary bus cannot travel in outer space, and you cannot become astronauts without years of training.
2. Landing on certain planets may be dangerous to your health. Even astronauts cannot visit Venus (it's too hot), Mercury (it's too close to the Sun), or Jupiter (its gravity would crush human beings). People cannot fly to the Sun, either. Its gravity and heat would be too strong.
3. Space travel could make you miss dinner with your family... for the rest of your childhood. Even if a school bus could go to outer space, it could never travel through the entire solar system in one day. It took years for the Voyager space probes to do that.

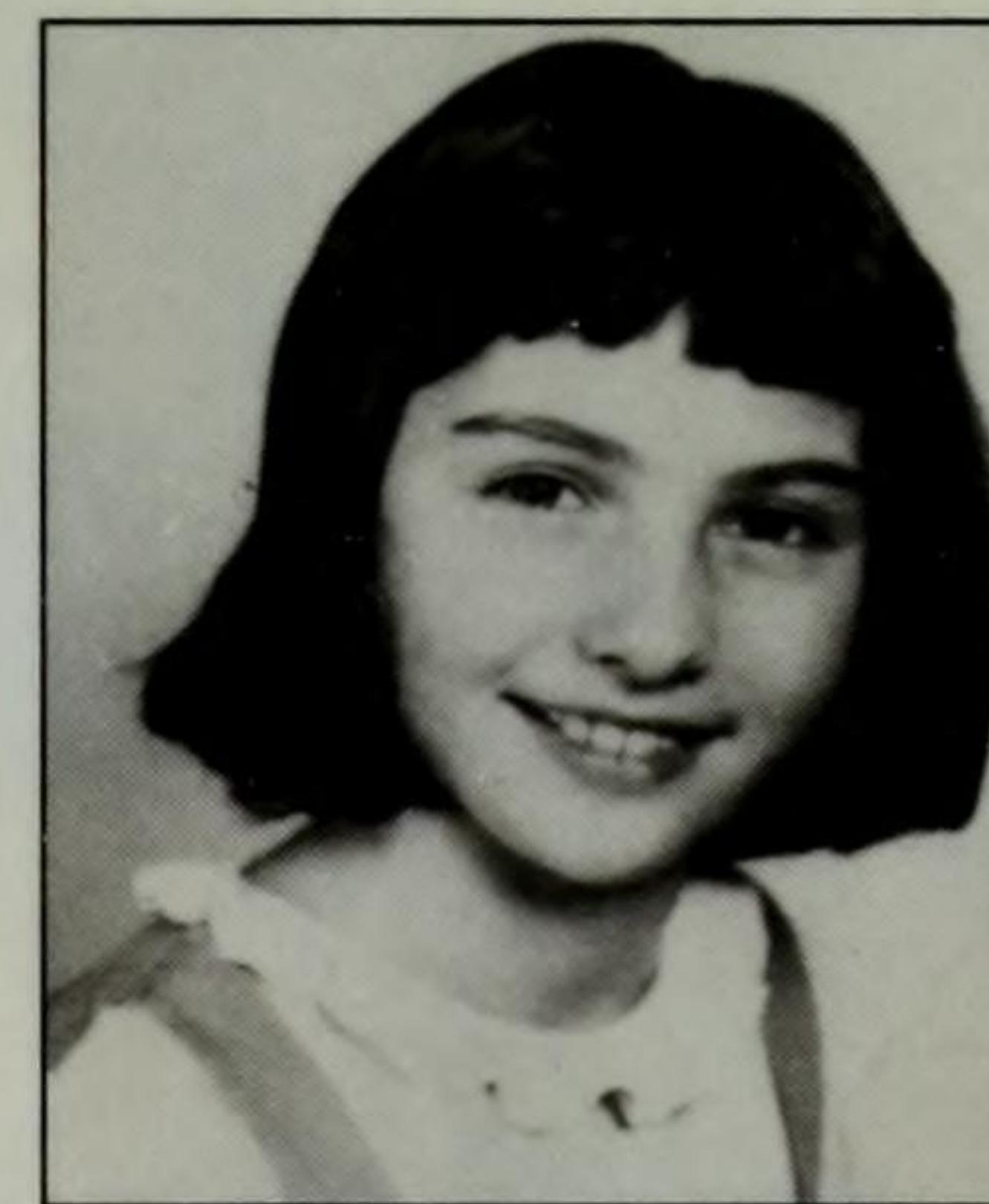


ON THE OTHER HAND...

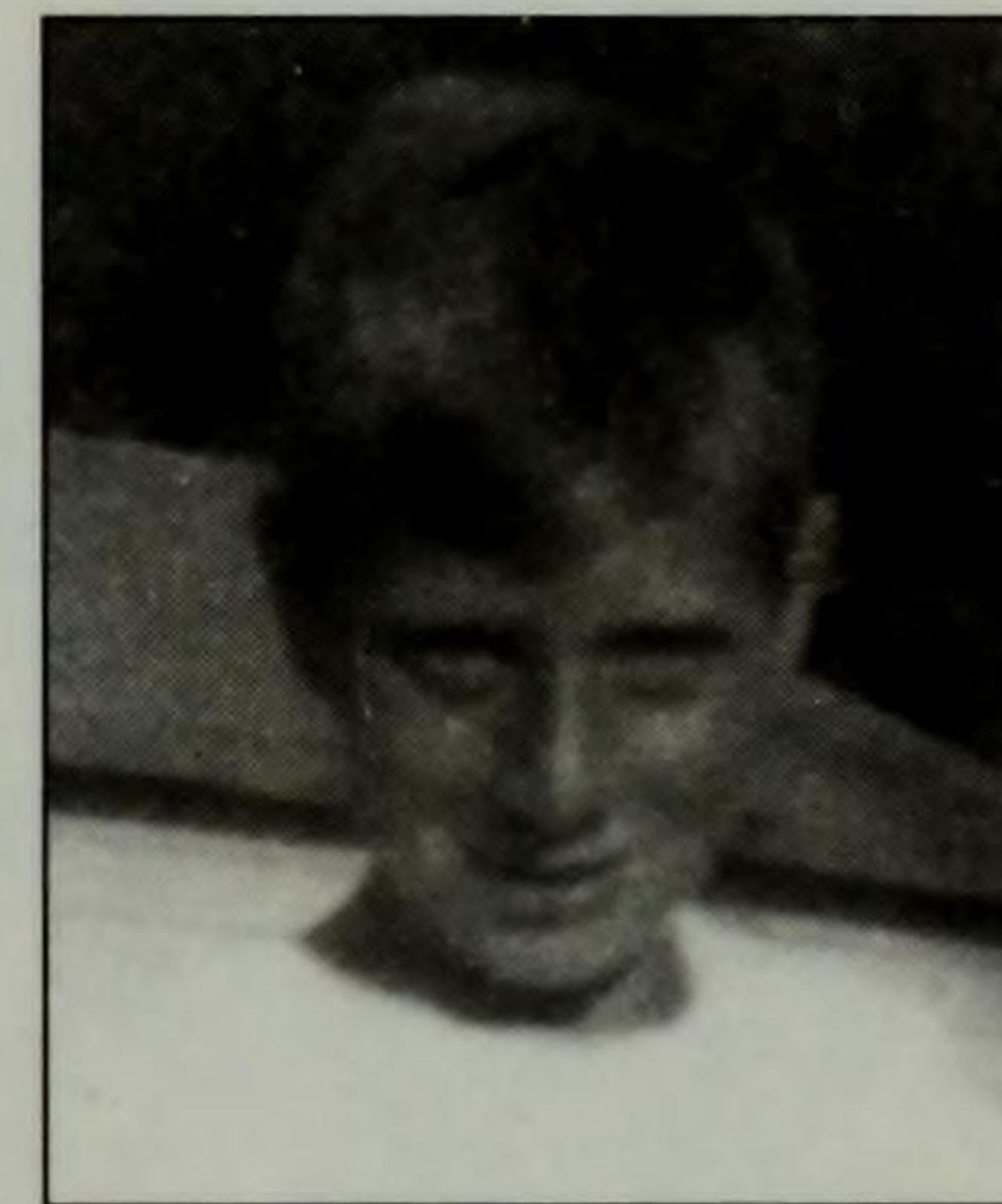
If a red-haired teacher in a funny dress shows up at your school — start packing!







1952



1958

**Joanna Cole's**  
interest in science  
started at a young age.  
Her favorite book when  
she was growing up was  
called *Bugs, Insects, and*  
*Such*, a book that she  
read over and over again.  
She still has her copy of  
it today.

**Bruce Degen's**  
favorite book was *My  
Father's Dragon*. He  
borrowed it from the  
library because he loved  
the drawing on the  
cover. He started reading  
it right away and was  
halfway finished before  
he even got home!

Have you been to the Waterworks?  
Inside the Earth? Inside the Human  
Body? Don't miss these trips with  
Ms. Frizzle and her class!

Also by Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen:


THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS AT THE WATERWORKS  
THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS INSIDE THE EARTH  
THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS INSIDE THE HUMAN BODY

*Jacket art copyright © 1990 by Bruce Degen*



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